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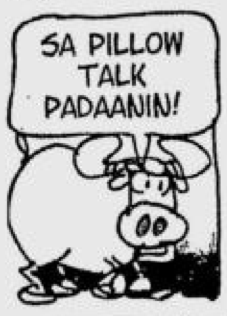
Kidnapped businesswoman rescued in Caloocan; 3 suspects killed in shootout

New 'housing' problem a job for Team Villar


SA PILLOW TALK PADAANIN!

By Philip C. Tubeza

BEFORE JOINING POLITICS, Manuel Villar was the housing industry leader. With his wife by his side, he built more than 100,000 houses for the poor and middle-class Filipino families.

NEW/ A4

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Bayan Muna solons ready to run for the Senate

By Norman Bordadora

AFTER TOPPING THE PARTY-LIST ELECTIONS IN 2001 and 2004 and bringing the Left's "progressive" stance to the House of Representatives, the militant Bayan Muna is training its sights on a seat in the Senate.

Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño—two of the three Bayan Muna representatives in the House—said the only thing standing between the

BAYAN/ A8

GMA orders Reds crushed in 2 years

₱1B to AFP, PNP kicks off all-out war vs NPA

By Christine O. Avendaño

CAUAYAN, ISABELA—IN A MOVE TANTAMOUNT to a declaration of war, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday committed billions of pesos in funds to fight the 37-year-old communist insurgency with guns and development projects.

Malacanang officials indicated their timetable called for defeating the insurgency in the "critical areas" in one to two years.

The earlier military timetable for stamping out the insurgency within 10 years was "too long," Ms Arroyo said in a visit to Isabela province, where she held the first of four meetings with regional leaders to discuss so-called "mega-development plans."

With revenue surpluses as funding sources, Ms Arroyo committed P1 billion to finance military and police operations against the communist New People's Army and P75 billion to spark investment and development in the next three years in North Luzon, where the insurgency remains a major headache.

Ms Arroyo said that while the government was determined to carry out its anti-poverty program, "the fight against the Left remains the glue that binds."

The President announced the steps needed to be taken overcome what her administration considers to be its number one enemy.

"We need to buy and we will buy surplus Hueys and other attack helicopters and control aircraft on soft terms. I am instructing (Budget) Secretary (Rolando) Andaya to release P1 billion to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to finance operations versus the NPA," Ms Arroyo said in her opening statement at the first Cabinet and regional develop

GMA/ A6

THE NO. 1 PROBLEM: President Arroyo talks about her plans to finish off the country's 37-year-old communist insurgency during the joint Cabinet meeting with regional leaders and development councils of north Luzon at the Isabela Hotel, Cauayan, Isabela on Friday. Trade Secretary Peter Favila is at left; Neda chief Romulo Neri, right. LYN RILLON

High court stops Luisita distribution to farmers

By Armand N. Nocum

THE FAMILY OF FORMER PRESIDENT Corazon Aquino yesterday won a Supreme Court injunction against a government plan to parcel out its 4,915-hectare Hacienda Luisita agricultural estate in Tarlac to farmer-beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The high court also barred the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council and Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman from carrying out a December 2005 order to revoke the Stock Distribution Option Agreement (SDOA) under which the 6,000 Hacienda Luisita Inc. workers obtained shares of stock in the company instead of getting their own farm lots.

In its resolution, the high tribunal granted the temporary restraining order sought by HLI which claimed that the government's move was violative of their constitutional rights and that the 16-year SDOA between HLI and its more than 6,000 workers was beyond the government's hand.

The government had asserted that the stock distribution option was illegal and accused Hacienda Luisita of illegally selling a 500-ha portion of the sprawling farm to developers.

The court also enjoined "respondents PARC and (Pangandaman), their agents and/or any other persons acting on their behalf of orders" from placing the controversial property under CARP "until further orders from this court."

The court also ordered HLI to post a P5-million bond while awaiting a final ruling on the case from the Supreme Court.

In February, HLI filed before the high court a petition for the issuance of a temporary restraining order and writ of preliminary injunction against PARC, Pangandaman, and the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid ng Hacienda Luisita.

Former PCGG Chair Magdangal Elma, who filed the petition in behalf of HLI, said that by their alleged "arbitrary actions," PARC and Pangandaman "have resurrected the socio-economic unrest that the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) sought to resolve."

"Said respondents' actions had destroyed the faith and confidence of the landowners and farmworkers-beneficiaries in the SDOA authorized under the CARL," Elma said.

According to him, the SDOA was "approved and ratified overwhelmingly by the affected farmers-beneficiaries and that there was "no credible showing before the DAR that the (farmers) are now asking for the rescis-

HIGH COURT/ A8

693 cases filed all over RP; Joma says cover-up

By Fe Zamora

SHOWING ITS DETERMINATION to finally put the squeeze on him, the government has begun filing throughout the country a cluster of criminal charges against Jose Maria Sison. But the exiled founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines said the allegations were intended to divert public attention from the administration's own crimes.

A security official who reports to Malacañang told the INQUIRER yesterday the cases against Sison included rebel attacks on government and private installations, municipal halls, military detachments and police stations in 15 regions across the country.

They also included raids on power plants and on the relay towers of Globe and Smart telecommunications companies, according to the official, who reports directly to the Cabinet security cluster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the official told the INQUIRER.

The official asked not to be identified for security reasons and for lack of an official clearance to talk to the media.

The cases that have been filed so far against Sison, who lives in exile in the Netherlands, were initiated by the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces and were among 693 incidents of supposed atrocities committed by the New People's Army since 2003, according to the official.

693 CASES/ A6

Pinoy or not, Asi must pay taxes – BIR

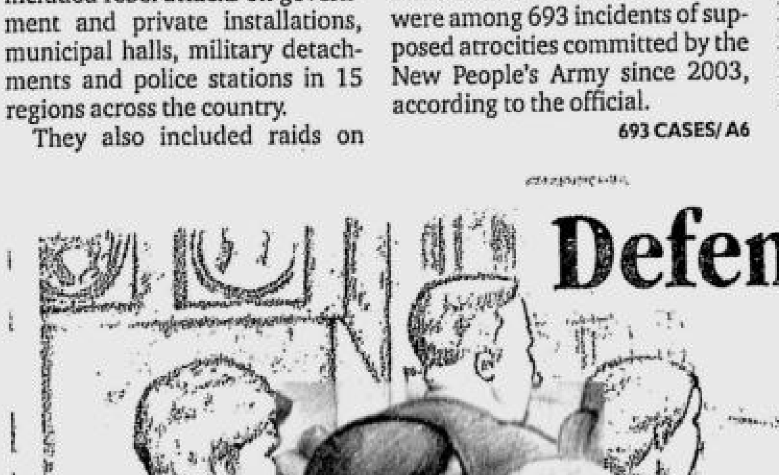
By Armand N. Nocum

BASKETBALL STAR PAUL ASI TAULAVA, WHO is fighting tooth and nail to be declared a Filipino, must pay taxes like the rest of his countrymen.

This hard reality hit Taulava, whose citizenship case remains pending in court, after he was indicted yesterday for 10 counts of tax evasion, a violation of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC).

In a 22-page resolution, the Department of Justice said there was "probable cause to warrant the indictment of [Taulava]" on the following grounds: He failed to file tax returns from 1999 to 2003, he failed to register with the BIR from 1999 and 2000, he failed to pay the annual registration fee for 2002 and 2003, and he secured more than one tax information number (TIN).

PINOY/ A8



SHIELDED BY WARM BODIES, "Nicole" sits midway of the Makati courtroom. STEPH BRAVO

Defense lawyers grill witness on condom

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Volt Contreras

THE HANDLING OF THE CONDOM USED in the alleged rape of a Filipino woman last year at the Subic Bay Freeport took up some time at yesterday's hearing at the Makati Regional Trial Court.

Defense lawyers grilled Genevieve Puno, evidence custodian of a Subic Bay investigation office, on how she handled evidence that the prosecution is banking on to prove that four US Marines raped 22-year-old "Nicole" inside a moving van on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

Of particular interest to defense counsel Francisco Rodrigo was how Puno kept and marked the condom allegedly used by Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith on that night.

Rodrigo, counsel for Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood, asked Puno to demonstrate how she handled the condom retrieved as evidence. The condom was dangling from Nicole's panty when bystanders found her distraught at a parking lot at the port's Alava Pier.

"How long did you keep the condom? Where did you keep it? Did you keep it in a refrigerator or a drawer?" Rodrigo said, firing one question after another.

"The condom was wrapped in a coupon bond. It was inside a brown paper bag with the [complainant's] pants, underwear and other evidence turned over to me. I placed it on top of my table, on one corner," said Puno, of the Intelligence and Investigation Office (IIO) of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's Law Enforcement Department.

Nicole had alleged that Smith raped her at the back of a Starex van while she was barely conscious, and while his comrades—Lance Corporals Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis, and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier—cheered him on.

That now infamous cheer—"Go, go, go, Smith, go!"—again cropped up at yesterday's hearing, with crime investigator Paquito Torres of the IIO recalling it as part of the "voluntary" statement he got from Timoteo Soriano, the Filipino driver of the rented van.

Guided by state prosecutor Hazel Valdez, Torres attested to portions of Soriano's original statement, which was done in Filipino.

Some of the marked passages had the driver recounting that as he drove slowly

DEFENSE/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western section of Luzon and the whole of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms, mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/06/17/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

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Kidnapped woman rescued

Bombing not ours, say rebel soldiers

By Tony S. Bergonia
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

HIS FACE covered, 'Batingaw' gives an interview. GMA 7/TV GRAB

A GROUP OF REBEL SOLDIERS has denied involvement in the spate of bombings which hit Metro Manila and elsewhere, saying that if they wanted to destabilize the government, they would strike "right in the heart of the Palace."

A junior officer, who identified himself by the nom de guerre Capt. Batingaw, said in an interview with GMA 7's Arnold Clavio that rebel soldiers were not behind the series of bombings that National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales blamed on forces out to destabilize the Arroyo administration.

A transcript of the interview was furnished the INQUIRER.

"Kung kami ang gagalaw… hindi kami gagawa ng ganon (If we were to move, we won't do such a thing)," said Batingaw in his interview with Clavio.

Swift, fast strike

"Gagalaw na kami mismo… right in the heart of the Palace. Right there, *mismo…* We will be there already in (a) swift, fast and lightning strike (We will move… right in the heart of the Palace. Right there, itself. We will be there already in a swift, fast and lightning strike)," he said.

This part of the interview was not aired on Saksi, GMA 7's late night news program.

Yesterday, the military said it had no evidence yet linking the so-called Magdalo rebel soldiers to the recent bomb attacks.

"He may have his own sources but as far as the Armed Forces of the Philippines is concerned, we have no information to that effect," military public information chief Col. Tristan Kison said in reaction to Gonzales' claim that Magdalo soldiers were behind the blasts.

Kison said they have no information if soldiers were involved.

"We are still awaiting results of the police investigation," he said.

Lawyer Roel Pulido, counsel of the Magdalo officers, also denied that his clients were behind the recent bomb attacks.

"Secretary Gonzales may not be aware they (Magdalo officers) are in jail. Tell him they are in jail," Pulido said mockingly.

"What would they think of next, blame them for the eruption (of Mt. Bulusan)?," Pulido added.

In the interview with Clavio, Batingaw said if rebel soldiers and officers were to conduct the bombings, they wouldn't do it the way it was being done.

"Bakit kami pipili ng oras na ganun? Madaling araw. Walang laman yung van. Kita mo yung pinasabog, walang tao, walang armas. Walang pakikinabangan (Why would we pick that time? Dawn. The van was empty. Look at what they blew up. There's no one there, no firearms. We won't get anything out of it)," said Batingaw.

The recent blasts, which occurred mostly at dawn, hit the Grepalife building in Makati, the mansion of alleged gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda in Pampanga, a police station in Quezon City and a van of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig. No one was injured in the blasts.

Batingaw said the bombings could be the work of government agents.

"Ang lahat ng ito ay may kaugnayan sa antiterrorism bill *para maipasa. Gaanong kalaking halaga ang naghihintay* from the big eagle *sakaling magkaroon tayo ng* antiterror law. *Pera yan, pera,* (Everything is connected to the antiterrorism bill so it would pass. How much is being dangled by the big eagle just in case we pass a terror law. It's all about money, money)" said Batingaw.

Gonzales earlier denied accusations that the government was behind the bombings.

Cops kill 3 suspects in raid

By Luige A. del Puerto and Nancy Carvajal

POLICE RESCUED A CHINESE-FILIPINO BUSINESSWOMAN and killed three of her alleged kidnappers in a shootout during a raid on the group's hideout in Caloocan City early yesterday.

A team from the Presidential Anti-Crime and Emergency Response and the Northern Police District stormed the safe house inside the Vista Verde subdivision in Barangay Kaybiga at about 7 a.m., killing three suspects.

They found the victim, 42-year-old Sonia Sanchez, handcuffed and cowering behind a cabinet door, but safe.

Police Director General Arturo Lomibao said an anonymous male had called the Pacer hotline, saying that a woman fitting Sanchez's description had been seen in the Caloocan neighborhood.

A surveillance was conducted before a rescue operation was organized and the woman was recovered unharmed, Lomibao said.

P20 million ransom

Sanchez was seized at about 5.30 a.m. last Thursday as she was opening the auto spare parts store that she owned in Palanan, Makati.

The suspects, believed to be members of a splinter group of the Waray Waray kidnap gang, had demanded a P20 million ransom. The amount had gone down to P15 million by the time Sanchez was rescued.

Deputy Director Oscar Calderon, the Pacer chief, said no ransom money was paid.

Sanchez was found "visibly shaken but unhurt," said Insp. Roy Malixi, a Pacer operative.

She had "the sense to shield herself from the gunfire by covering her body with the cabinet door," he said.

Calderon said the caller's tip and the ensuing surveillance confirmed the location of the kidnappers' hideout.

"When our men went in, the kidnappers fired and our men returned fire," he said.

Suspect identified

Only one of the three suspects was identified. Sprawled near the door of the room where the kidnap victim was being held was Edgar Suela of Jaro, Leyte. He was identified through a residence certificate found in his wallet which had about a thousand pesos in cash.

Found under a large tree at the back of the house was a second suspect, a gunshot wound in his neck. He had a "Marlon Viador" tattoo in one arm.

The third was slumped at the foot of the concrete fence at the back of the house. Police said he may have been trying to escape through the back which faced a vacant lot.

The suspects were armed with a 9 mm Ingram with silencer, a .45 cal. pistol and .38 cal. revolver. Investigators recovered five empty shells.

Also found at the crime scene was a pair of inexpensive plastic yellow shades covered with electric tape.

The victim was apparently asked to wear the shades instead of a blindfold so as not to attract attention, police said.

Calderon said the police was very grateful to the anonymous caller.

"His timely information led to the successful rescue operation. We hope the community will continue to help the [Philippine National Police]," he said.

Anonymous caller

The anonymous male caller phoned the Pacer at about 11 a.m. last Thursday, saying he saw a group of men dragging a woman to a house inside the Vista Verde subdivision some two hours earlier.

He gave the address of the house, a two-bedroom duplex at 1B-Bona St., Vista Verde Subdivision, North Caloocan City.

The Pacer, which had already been alerted of the abduction by then, immediately sent a team and placed the house under surveillance.

The team was able to confirm that a woman was being held in a room in the house and that three men were guarding her.

Calderon said the suspects appeared to have sensed the police team's presence.

The still unidentified Pacer team leader weighed his options and decided to attempt a rescue.

"They caught up with the suspects at the door. The suspects fought back," Calderon said in a mixture of Filipino and English.

The shootout lasted only a few minutes.

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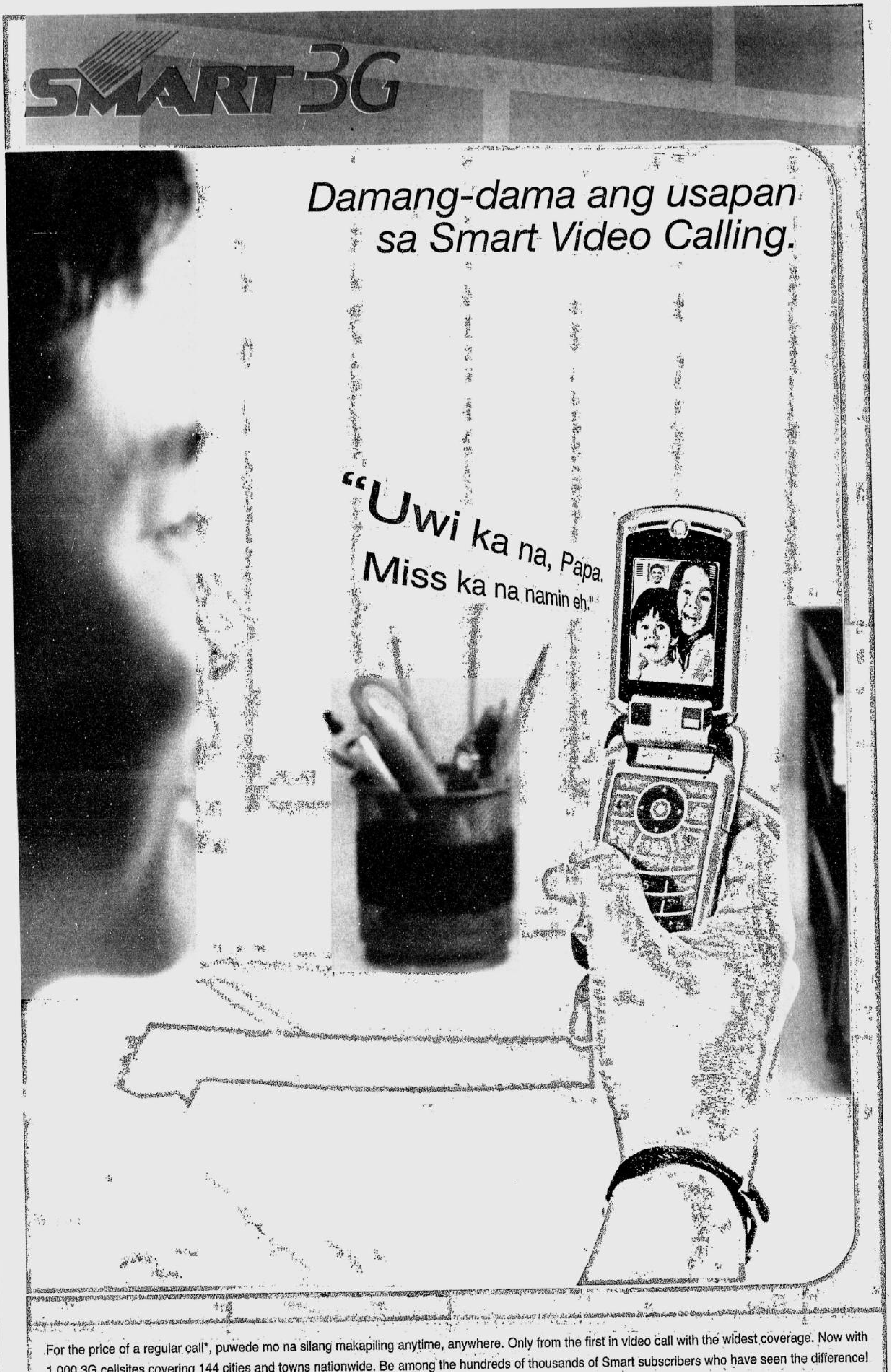
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New 'housing' problem a job for Team Villar

From page A1

Team Villar is being called upon to help with another uh, housing problem.

The leadership of the House of Representatives is expecting Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, wife of incoming Senate President Villar, to help resolve the House's differences with the Senate, including the sharp disagreements over Charter change.

Backchannel

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the House leadership was hoping that Representative Villar would help in "backchannel" negotiations with the Upper Chamber now that her husband would be assuming the Senate presidency.

Nograles added that he expected that "all irritants" in the House-Senate relationship would be removed once the backchannel talks begin.

"One thing I'm sure about his assumption to office is that there will be a lot of backchanneling. I am sure we will have better relations with the Senate unlike what we had under [outgoing Senate President Franklin] Drilon, when there were never any backchannel talks. There were no coffee shop talks," Nograles said.

"Considering that [Rep. Villar] is our colleague, the lines of communication are now open. We don't have to talk to Manny Villar, we only have to talk to Cynthia. She can show the temperament of the House," he added.

Nograles said another plus was Senator Villar's experience as a former congressman, which would make him more sensitive to the concerns of House members.

"He has many friends here. *Alam niya hulihin ang kiliti ng mga* (He knows how to talk to) congressmen," Nograles said.

Villar is scheduled to take over the Senate presidency on July 24, when the third regular session of the 13th Congress begins.

HOUSE-SENATE bonding is not an unlikely prospect once Sen. Villar is Senate president next month with his wife Cynthia, a prominent member in the House.

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No inciting, just breach of peace

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA POLICE District (MPD) suffered a setback after the inciting to sedition charges they filed against two college students and a hospital employee who heckled President Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday was downgraded to violating a city ordinance.

Lawyer Elaine Cerezo, assistant chief for inquest at the Manila Prosecutor's Office, said the three violated City Ordinance No. 844 or breach of peace.

A bail of P100 each was recommended for the suspects' temporary liberty.

Defense lawyers grill witness on condom

From page A1

at the port on the night of Nov. 1, 2005, his American passengers were rowdy and shouting.

Carpentier, who took the passenger seat next to Soriano, turned up the volume of the radio, a passage read.

It continued: "*Sa tingin ko, pinagsasamantalahan yung babaeng sakay ko* (I suspected that my female passenger was being raped). I could hear [her] shouting but I couldn't understand because the Americans and the stereo were too loud."

Asked in the statement who could be raping the woman, Soriano purportedly replied that it was Smith who was seated next to the woman and that his comrades were shouting, "Go, go, go, Smith, go!"

Demonstration

Asked by Rodrigo to explain further, Puno said the condom was wrapped in a sheet of bond paper that was folded thrice crosswise and then on either sides. The flaps on the sides were then stapled.

Rodrigo asked how Puno could have possibly marked the condom without touching it—an act that might have contaminated the evidence.

Puno demonstrated how she did it, using a piece of yellow pad.

"I opened one end and slid out the condom [onto another piece of bond paper]. Using the tip of one pen and another pen, I straightened it so it would flatten, and so I could write on it," she said.

"But how did you put it back inside without touching it?" Rodrigo said.

Puno responded by sliding an imaginary condom from the paper where she had dropped it, into the improvised envelope where it came from.

Rodrigo also wanted to know if Puno noticed that any part of the complainant's pants or underwear was torn.

Puno answered in the negative.

Taking his turn, Smith's lawyer Benjamin Formoso asked Puno to describe the condom. He specifically wanted to know if she had noticed anything inside it.

"*Base sa pagkakita ko, yung* condom *po ay mabuhangin at malagkit-lagkit* (From what I saw, it had some sand and was sticky)," Puno said.

14 hours later

The pieces of evidence were turned over to Puno's office by IIO case investigator Ramon Paje at around 1 p.m. of Nov. 2, or almost 14 hours after the alleged rape.

The evidence bag was on her desk from that day until noon of Nov. 7, when they were turned over the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory.

Apart from Nicole's clothing and the used condom, Puno took custody of an empty condom sachet and a bottle of beer, retrieved from the area where the complainant was found.

She also took custody of the trip ticket of Starways Transport Service Inc., the company that owned the Starex van.

The van and its key were also turned over to Puno.

'Voluntary' act

Torres, the 10th witness for the prosecution and also of the IIO, maintained under oath that he never coerced driver Soriano into making his statement less than 24 hours after the alleged crime.

He had to point this out after a prosecution counsel showed him the "second statement" submitted by Soriano five weeks after the incident, in which the driver claimed that he mentioned "gang rape" in his original narrative after Torres punched him twice and threatened to include him among the suspects.

"I deny ever assaulting him. All he did was voluntary," said Torres, referring to his two-hour interview session with Soriano.

On direct examination by state prosecutor Valdez, Torres said various individuals, including high-ranking officials, were in his office during his first meeting with Soriano at around 9:30 p.m. of Nov. 2.

Among them, he said, were Zambales Rep. Mitos Magsaysay, SBMA legal consultant Carlitos Cruz and businessman (and fellow prosecution witness) Joseph Khonghun.

He said these persons were going in and out of his room.

When a defense counsel questioned the relevance of establishing their presence, Valdez countered that this was "to prove there was no coercion."

Recantation

Torres said that by the time he concluded taking Soriano's statement at around 1 a.m. of Nov. 3, Antonio Ramos and Guy Papageorge, agents of the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), were present.

At 9:30 a.m., Soriano was made to swear on the document before a prosecutor. The proceedings were also witnessed by another prosecutor, as well as SBMA Administrator Armand Areza.

Soriano's purported "recantation" entered the case records on Dec. 8, 2005, during the preliminary investigation at the Olongapo City prosecutors office.

Torres said he did not know of any charge being subsequently filed against him by Soriano over the alleged threats he made and punches he threw at the driver.

In an earlier hearing, NCIS resident agent Ronald Beltz said he met Soriano on Nov. 16, 2005—or much earlier, before the latter's public recantation—at the Century Park Hotel in Manila.

Beltz said it was Soriano who contacted him through a female intermediary. He said the driver was then "frightened" and "had gone into hiding."

State of shock

Torres also said he spoke with Nicole at his office on the morning of Nov. 2, after she came from the James Gordon Hospital for treatment accompanied by her sister and investigator Elsie Cabral.

"She was complaining that her body and private parts ached," he said in Filipino. "She was in a state of shock and would suddenly cry."

Torres said Nicole was "not comfortable with a male investigator," which was why he asked Cabral to continue the interview with her.

Cross-examining Torres, defense counsel Jose Justiniano tried to corner the investigator on why the rape complaint originally named six US Marines as respondents when Soriano recalled having only five American passengers and the complainant in his van.

Torres explained that the information he got coming from NCIS agent Ramos, whom he described as a "reliable source" and a "competent authority," counted six suspects.

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Magkantahan tayo
Kahit hanggang umaga
Si tatay, si nanay, si ate at si kuya
Kasama ang lahat ng buong pamilya

(Repeat Chorus 1)
(Bridge: Instrumental)
(Repeat II)

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GMA to sign repeal of death penalty on eve of Vatican trip

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL ARROYO, WHO has pushed for the abolition of the death penalty, said yesterday she will sign a law banning capital punishment before making a trip to the Vatican next week.

Congress last week approved a bill abolishing the death penalty despite protests from relatives of crime victims, who believe Ms Arroyo, a staunch Roman Catholic, rushed approval to please the pope. The President needs to sign the bill for it to become law.

Arroyo will leave next Saturday for Italy before traveling on to Spain.

"That's a good day to sign the death penalty abolition," she said. "Not only it is on the eve of my departure, but it is the feast of St. John the Baptist who was a victim of death penalty in his time."

Ms Arroyo's first stop will be Milan before continuing to Vatican City to meet Pope Benedict XVI.

She also will meet separately with Italian President Giorgio Napolitano.

From Italy, she will travel to Spain to hold talks with King Juan Carlos III and President Jose Luis Gonzalez Zapatero.

Papal Nuncio Fernando Filoni, the Vatican's envoy to Manila, early this week praised the Philippine government for moving to outlaw capital punishment and taking "this step toward the culture of life."

Filoni, however, pointed out that "other fundamental rights of a person have not been properly defended."

He did not specify, but left-wing groups have criticized the government's crackdown on opponents and Ms Arroyo's failure to stop a wave of extrajudicial killings of their members, allegedly by security forces.

More than 600 left-wing activists and their supporters have been killed since Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001. Her government has repeatedly denied responsibility and has ordered an investigation into the killings.

More than 1,200 death-row convicts — including at least 11 al-Qaida-linked militants — will benefit from the removal of capital punishment.

The 1987 Constitution abolished the death penalty that dictator Ferdinand Marcos' government used to execute about a dozen people convicted of rape and drug charges.

Congress restored the death penalty in late 1993 for heinous crimes such as murder, child rape and kidnapping. Seven people convicted of rape and robbery with killings have been executed since then.

AP

Pope's envoy gives bishops reason to get involved

THE COUNTRY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS may have found better reason to get more involved in socio-political issues.

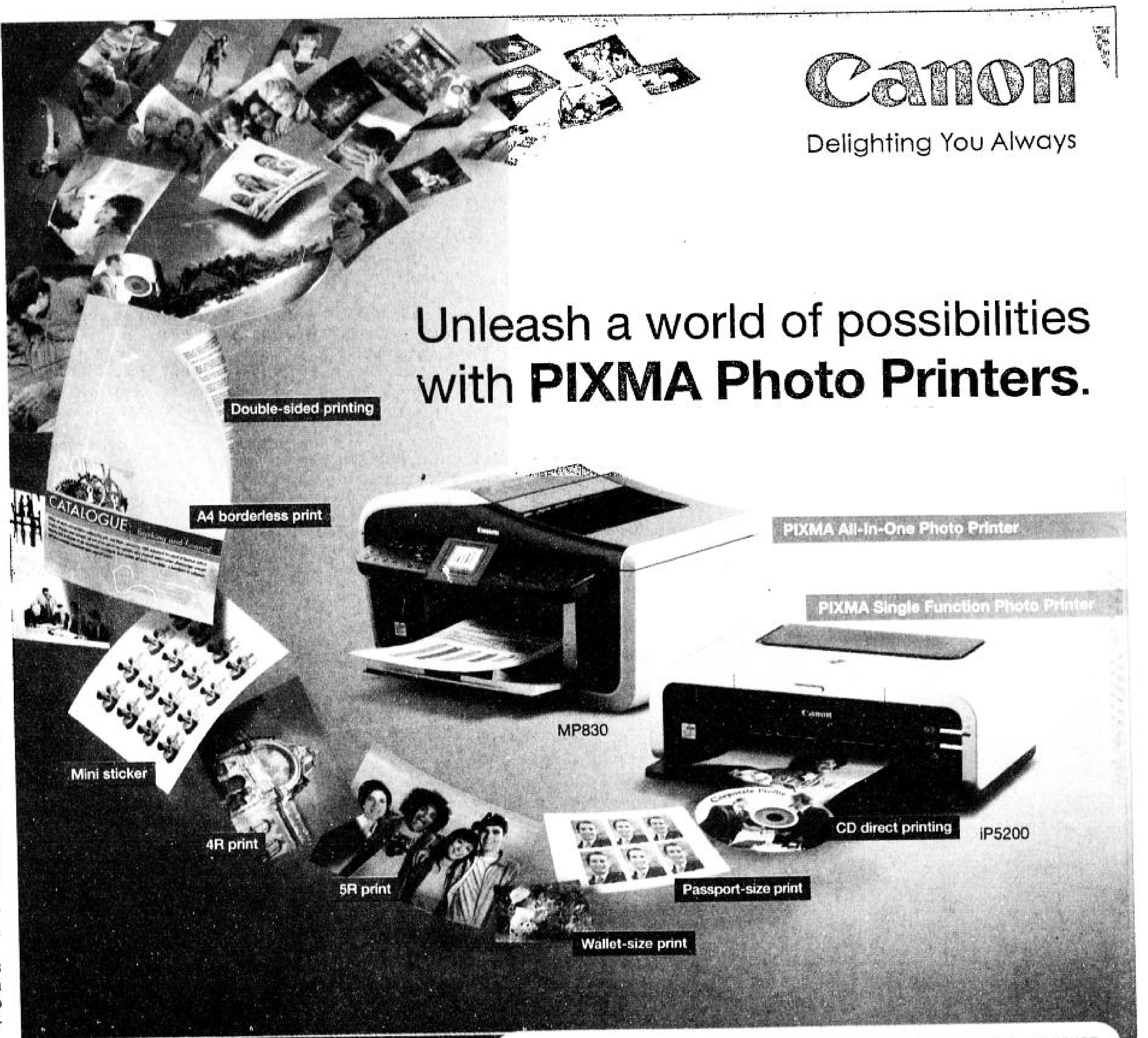
No less than the new Vatican ambassador, Archbishop Fernando Filoni, encouraged the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) "to look at the needs of the country, not just on the spiritual aspects, but also concerning the rights of the people."

The apostolic nuncio gave the message during a dinner with members of the CBCP's permanent council the other night, the CBCP reported yesterday.

The permanent council is the CBPC's policy making body whenever the bishops are not in plenary session which happens twice yearly.

Also present at the dinner at the CBCP compound in Intramuros were Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, the CBCP president.

Christian V. Esguerra



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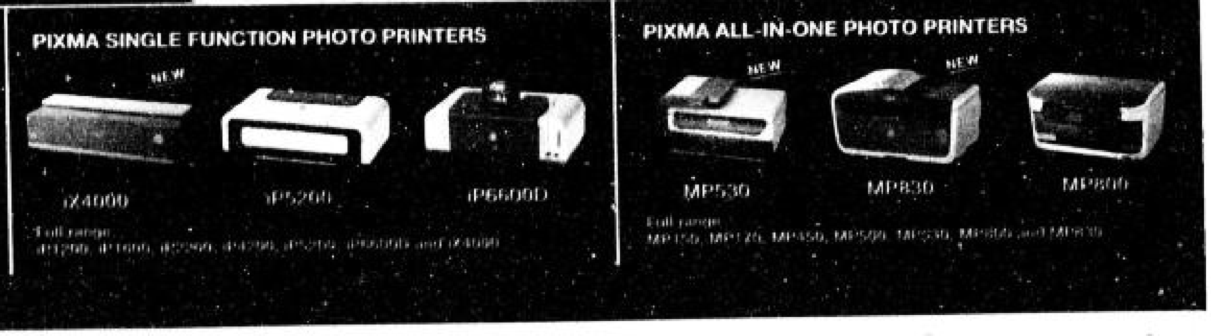
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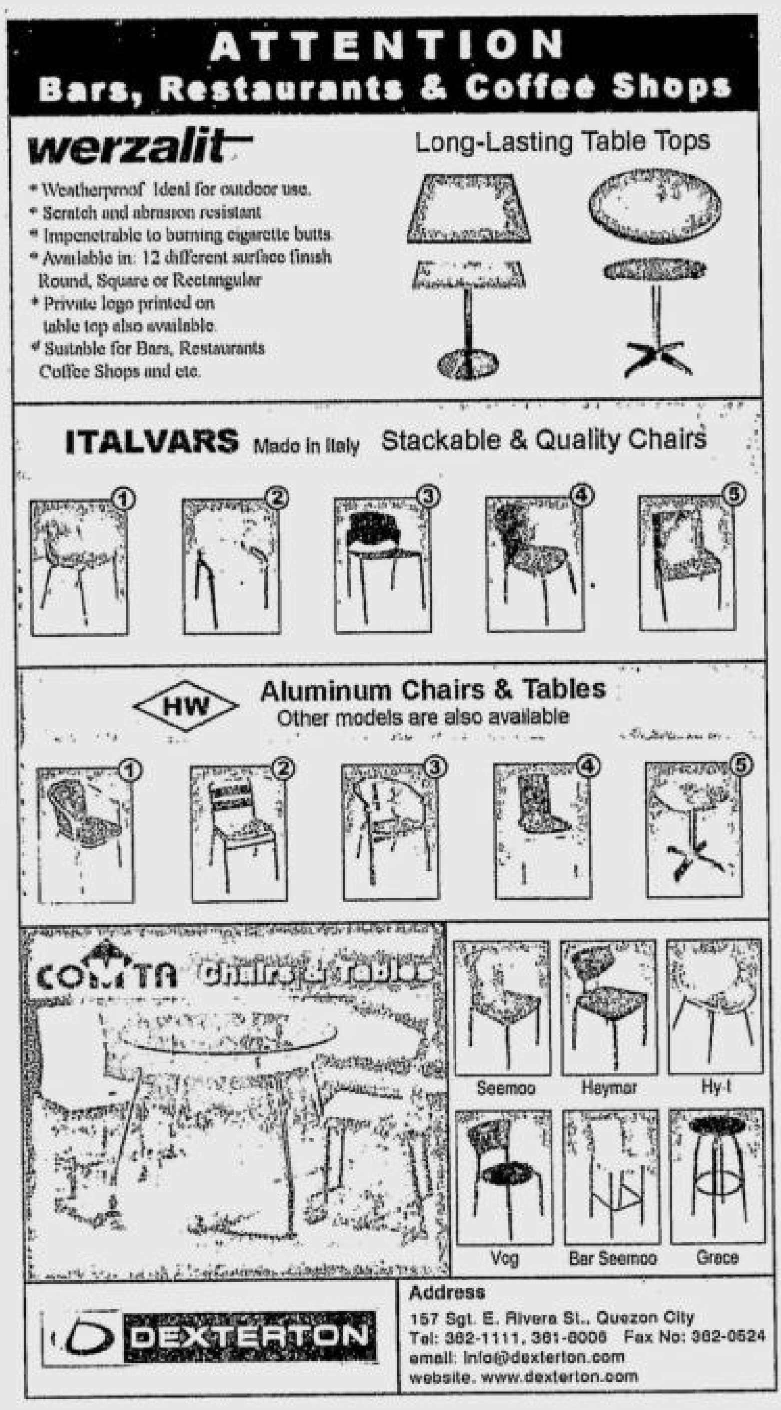

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ment council meeting for the North Luzon Area.

Decisive edge

She said she had instructed national security officials to work with the Department of Budget and Management "on selected hardware and fundings aside from the P5 billion per year (for) modernization."

"That will give [us] a decisive edge against the NPA," the President said.

"These are investments that will yield peace dividends to the economy," she declared.

Ms Arroyo slammed the "opposition Left," for "internationalizing its campaign against the government and using the issue of human rights to "demonize our administration" before the international community.

Critical areas

She said this was why she was going to Spain next week, as part of her foreign trip, "to thank the government of Spain because they have consistently supported us in our fight for security and stability in our country."

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor told reporters that Ms Arroyo had told defense officials that instead of their target of 6-10 years to wipe out insurgency, they should have a "short term, medium term and long term" strategy.

"We're not saying we can achieve this immediately but at least we can do this in critical areas, like Quezon, Southern Tagalog and Northern Luzon," Defensor said.

2-pronged approach

He recalled that during her Independence Day speech, Ms Arroyo had called for unity and for peace in Mindanao.

"So here is the answer to the problem of the communist threat," Defensor said.

Asked how soon Ms Arroyo wanted the job done, Defensor said: "In the short term, one to two years ... at least in the critical areas that needed to be addressed."

He stressed that the administration was addressing the insurgency problem by a "two-pronged approach."

One of these approaches is "by strengthening the economy and that was why we have today a regional development program," Defensor said.

Communist threat

The military, on the other hand, will address the problem of insurgency, he said.

Asked whether there was a single incident that prompted Ms Arroyo to take a new offensive against the CPP-NPA, Defensor said the development programs of the government had been affected by the communist threat in the countryside.

He said that investments could not come in if the peace and order situation "will continue as we see it now."

After the meeting of the President and her Cabinet with regional leaders of North Luzon, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo had told them that she had committed to give the region P25 billion per year or P75 billion in the next three years for their proposed development programs.

4 regional groups

The money will come from national budget allocations, Bunye told reporters.

"The President said it's now that we are in a position to fund this budget because of the reform programs that she has started," he said.

"That P75 billion over three years is now a very reasonable resource allocation per regional grouping." Bunye said.

Malacanang plans to turn "four enlarged regional groupings" into investment and development areas, and these are North Luzon, Metro Luzon, Central Philippines and Mindanao, officials said.

Counter-insurgency

Andaya told reporters that the P1-billion fund to be used for government operations against the NPA would come from savings in the reenacted 2005 budget.

"We will just augment the current operations of the AFP and the PNP," he said.

Andaya said the AFP and the PNP would have to inform the DBM of counter-insurgency operations they wanted funded and state, among others, the number of operations to be conducted and the areas where they would conduct this.

He said he had had initial talks with AFP and PNP officials but he needed a formal letter from them.

On top of the P5 billion set aside by the government for the modernization of the AFP, Andaya also said that the government was set to sign an agreement with the United States on the purchase of helicopters and strategic aircraft.

"It will be payable after two years," he said.

GMA's legacy

He said these aircraft could be delivered one month after the agreement was signed.

Asked whether the President wants the insurgency to be wiped out before her term ends, he said: "Yes, that would be one of her legacies," Andaya said.

SISON: Politically motivated to divert attention

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DISSECTING FACTS ON HEPATITIS A

By: Dr. Anna Ong-Lim
Consultant,
Section of Infectious and Tropical Diseases in Pediatrics
Philippine General Hospital

Hepatitis is a general term referring to inflammation (swelling) of the liver. This disease can be caused by drugs or medications, exposure to chemicals in the environment, or even by inherited conditions. However, the more common cause of hepatitis in developing countries remains to be infectious agents, among which is a virus known as Hepatitis A.

The virus is more frequently transmitted where there are poor sanitary conditions. Taking water or food contaminated with stool which has the virus may lead to onset of the disease. This type of transmission is called "fecal-oral." Eating contaminated shellfish or improperly washed, raw fruits and vegetables also often spreads the virus.

Transmission has been reported through direct person to person contact in households where good personal hygiene is not observed. Sexual contact is also a means by which the virus can be transmitted.

The Hepatitis A virus can live outside the body for months, depending on environmental conditions. It can survive on kitchen counter tops for three to four hours at normal temperatures. The virus is killed by exposure to heat (85 degrees C) for one minute. However, it can still be spread from cooked food if this gets contaminated after cooking. Adequate chlorination of water usually kills any Hepatitis A virus that may get into the water supply.

Hepatitis A was thought to have been described long ago by Hippocrates, and what he saw then is similar to modern findings: fever, weakness, vomiting, and poor appetite. The patient is observed to have weight loss, dark urine, and yellowing of the skin (jaundice). Many patients complain of itchiness once jaundice sets in.

Unfortunately, school children (above 2 years) or productive adults are often the ones who suffer from these symptoms. These usually last less than 2 months but can persist for as long as 6 months. A small percentage of patients infected with hepatitis A risk serious complications like liver failure. These include people with previously diagnosed liver disease or those above 60 years old. On rare occasions, hepatitis A has caused death ("fulminant hepatitis").

The average patient can miss up to five weeks of school or work due to the illness because there is no specific cure. Once diagnosed, patients can only be advised to rest and to consume foods high in protein. Intimate contact should be avoided so that spread to other household members can be minimized.

The Philippines is considered to be an area where hepatitis A is widespread. To avoid the disease and its complications, immunization with hepatitis A vaccine has been recommended by local and international medical societies. For children 12 months or older, the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines recommends that two doses be given 6-12 months apart. For adults, those who have tested negative for the disease may also be given two doses of the vaccine using the same schedule.

Hepatitis A vaccines are manufactured from inactivated virus particles, and therefore cannot cause disease in the vaccinated individual. The vaccine has proven to be safe and effective. Studies have shown that it can prevent infection in about 95% of people who are exposed. Experts believe that protection may last ten years or longer when the two-dose vaccine series is completed. There are generally no known side effects, except for some pain at the site of the injection.

For protection against vaccine preventable diseases, ask your doctor about the suitable vaccines for every member of the family, depending on their age and lifestyle. GSK Family Vaccines is partnering with the medical community, so more patients can discover their power to protect their loved ones inside and outside the home. Get more health information and advice on family protection through vaccination.

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693 cases filed all over RP; Joma says cover-up

From page A1

The charges were filed in municipal and regional trial courts in Bicol, the Visayas and in some provinces in Northern Luzon.

The rest of the other cases were expected to be filed in the next few weeks, the source said.

The official said Sison and the entire CPP leadership would also be charged criminally with killing suspected military informers and for the use by the NPA of women and children as combatants, a clear violation of the international convention on the rights of women and minors.

"How would these connect to Joma Sison? We will establish in court that these atrocities were committed in compliance with directives from him and the CPP leadership to intensify the revolution in the countrysides," the official said.

Sison denies charges

Earlier, the INQUIRER reported based on its sources familiar with the matter that the Arroyo administration was also preparing to file murder charges against Sison and top CPP leaders, including Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, in connection with the killing of former CPP/NPA leaders Romulo Kintanar in 2003 and Arturo Tabara in 2004.

The killings of Kintanar and Tabara occurred in Quezon City but the administration plans to file the cases in the Netherlands, where Sison has lived in exile since 1987.

Saying he had no omnipotent powers, Sison yesterday denied he had anything to do with the killings of Kintanar and Tabara, or with other crimes ascribed to him by the government.

In a statement from his exile base in the Netherlands, Sison branded the allegations as "politically motivated and meant to deceive the people and divert their attention from the criminal culpabilities of the Arroyo regime for electoral fraud, corruption and rights violations."

'Acts of the revolution'

Sison said that while the CPP and the NPA had owned up to killing Kintanar and Tabara for their alleged crimes against "the revolutionary forces and the people," he was not involved in meting out the death sentences on the two.

"I should not be misrepresented as the omnipotent entity making decisions for the CPP and NPA," Sison said, adding he was only the chief political consultant of a National Democratic Front panel involved in peace negotiations with the government.

He said the deaths of Kintanar and Tabara were "acts of the revolution" by the CPP and the NPA.

"By their official statements appearing in www.philippinerevolution.org and other publications, the CPP and the NPA have long admitted responsibility for giving battle to Kintanar and Tabara as armed and dangerous agents of the reactionary government, who committed serious crimes against the revolutionary forces and the people," Sison said.

Beyond RP's reach

Sison said the Philippine government had always tried to pin him down for rebellion and murder but these were "barefaced lies."

He said the supposed administration case against him would amount to nothing because he was "beyond the jurisdiction of the Philippine authorities under Philippine and international law."

"There is no extradition treaty between the Philippine and Dutch governments," he said. "I am also protected by the Refugee Convention and Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which prohibits the Dutch government from expelling me to anywhere I am in danger of torture and other ill treatment."

Sison said the accusations against him "will not draw away the attention of the people from the culpability of the Arroyo regime for the murder of more than 680 legal activists, the forced disappearance and torture of some hundreds more and the massive military assaults on the working people in the various regions."

Widows' version

Kintanar was a former New People's Army chief while Tabara was a former member of the CPP military commission and political bureau.

Both Kintanar and Tabara were breakaways from the mainstream CPP group identified with Sison.

In affidavits filed with the Department of Justice, Gloria Asuncion Jopson-Kintanar and Veronica Tabara, widows of the slain rebel leaders, admitted to having "personal knowledge" of the policies and modes of operation of the CPP-NPA and these included killing party members suspected of "counterrevolutionary activities," according to the INQUIRER sources.

Man behind pseudonyms

The two widows also categorically named Sison as the founder and chair of the CPP and the person behind the aliases "Amado Guerrero" and "Armando Liwanag."

The two women said they knew about Sison's role in the CPP/NPA as former members of the communist movement from the '70s to the '90s.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said lawyers he had talked to called the government's plan to file murder charges in the Netherlands against Sison "a crazy idea."

"There has yet to be a precedent wherein a criminal case was filed against a political activist who's out of the country ... I think that this is just political propaganda," Ocampo said at a news forum.

Other militants react

"They just want to discredit Jose Maria Sison in his campaign to remove himself from the terrorist listing (of the United States and the European Union)," Ocampo said.

Other militant leaders also denounced the government's legal moves against Sison.

"This is harassment, plain and simple. It is another part of the government plan to attack the Left on all fronts, using all means foul and fair to prevent us from exposing the rottenness of this regime," said Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

The KMP is allied with the legal Left's umbrella group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, or Bayan, which is identified with the so-called, pro-Sison Reaffirmist faction within the leftist movement.

Laban ng Masa chair Francisco Nemenzo condemned the government's "cynical use" of the deaths of Kintanar and Tabara by attributing the recent wave of killings of militants to leftist internal conflicts.

Saying two to three years had already passed since the deaths of Kintanar and Tabara, Nemenzo added: "The revival of cases the government has long neglected to serve its current propaganda objectives speaks ill of our system of justice."

The leftist group split into factions in the early 1990s.

Party-list groups identified with the Reaffirmists, such as Bayan Muna, Gabriella and Anakpawis, hold six seats in Congress and are among the harshest critics of the Arroyo administration.

Appeal to the widows

Ramos urged the widows of Kintanar and Tabara not to be used by government.

"The Department of Justice is just capitalizing on your pain and anger, so that they can hurt the Left, even if they know that Prof. Sison has nothing to do with (the) supposed murders," the KMP leader said. *With reports from Norman Bordadora, Luige A. del Puerto and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Romulo denies eyeing Washington posting

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FOR THE NTH TIME, FOREIGN SECRETARY Alberto Romulo has denied that he was seeking or had been offered the post of Philippine ambassador to the United States.

And sources said the Washington post would go to Ambassador Willy Gaa, consul general in Los Angeles, when Ambassador Alberto del Rosario's resignation takes effect on July 8.

"The talk in Washington is that it will be Ambassador Gaa," said an INQUIRER source who asked not to be named because she was not authorized to talk about the appointment.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations and head of the Commission on Appointments panel that screens foreign service nominees, confirmed that Gaa was in the shortlist of nominees for the Philippines' most important diplomatic post.

"He's one of them," Santiago said when asked by the INQUIRER. But she said it was up to President Macapagal-Arroyo to announce the name of the No. 1 contender.

Ms Arroyo was Santiago's special guest at the party marking her 61st birthday last Thursday.

Baja

Santiago also confirmed that Ambassador Lauro Baja, the Philippines' permanent representative to the United Nations, wanted the Washington post.

Baja will soon be replaced by former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., but the latter's appointment has yet to be confirmed.

Sources said Baja was being endorsed by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., and Gaa, the country's former ambassador to China, by newspaper publisher Maximo Soliven.

Romulo has expressed consternation at recurring news reports that he would be moved to Washington, an official close to him said.

Yesterday, Romulo—who was in Washington for the Philippine Independence Day rites there, told the official: "[The post] was not offered to me. And if it were, I have no desire or inclination to take [it]. I would rather resign [from the Cabinet]."

The official said Romulo was content to stay on as foreign secretary.

Romulo has reportedly said that only a rich man could afford to take the Washington post because he has to subsidize the perks accorded to Filipino politicians visiting the United States.

Conflicting statements

On June 13, Malacanang said Del Rosario had quit, but the ambassador said he had been recalled.

An INQUIRER source said Del Rosario decided to quit when he learned from unofficial channels that he would be recalled because Malacanang had found a suitable replacement.

The source said Malacanang was looking for someone of Del Rosario's stature.

Romulo was to personally break the news to Del Rosario when he flew to the United States early this week. But Del Rosario apparently learned about Malacanang's plan before Romulo arrived.

Del Rosario had been wanting to quit since 2004 but Ms Arroyo had repeatedly prevailed upon him to stay on, the source said.

GMA allies told to look at fraud evidence

STUNG BY CRITICISM from administration legislators for revealing the initial findings of a Senate inquiry into the "Hello Garci" tape scandal, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday said he was willing to brief Malacañang's "loyal defenders" on the allegedly damning evidence of fraud in the May 2004 elections.

"If they want to examine these pieces of evidence, they're free to do it. If they want extensive discussion on these pieces of evidence, they're welcome to it," he told reporters.

Biazon said the investigating committee on national defense, which he chairs, had "strong and conclusive evidence" that there was "massive cheating" to favor President Macapagal-Arroyo.

This proof was in the form of "testimonies, documents and material physical pieces of evidence," he said.

He promised the administration congressmen that they would be allowed to present their own evidence at the briefing or disprove the evidence already in the hands of the committee.

"I do hope that they refrain from using insults. Like now I am being called a voodoo practitioner, irresponsible, publicity-hungry and other such unflattering description. Let me show them the evidence anytime," Biazon said.

The President's allies in the House of Representatives rebuked Biazon the other day for the premature release of his committee's findings before the committee could vote on its report and present it to the plenary.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay branded it as "speculative assessment" by a "publicity-hungry" senator.

Lakas-CMD Representatives Exequiel Javier and Marcelino Libanan accused the Senate of practicing "voodoo politics". *TJ Burgonio*

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   TCT Nos. N-187226, N-187227
   Land Area: 29, 844 Sqm.
   Proposal Type: Long Term Lease

Interested parties may submit their proposals to the Disposition of Acquired Assets Department, 5th floor, Core C, GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Pasay City on or before July 14, 2006.

All proposals shall be evaluated by the AAEC and shall be subject to the final approval of the President and General Manager and/or BOARD OF TRUSTEES. GSIS reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals.

(Sgd) RENATO R. SANTICO
Senior Vice President
Housing and Real Property Development Group

University of the Philippines Law Center
INSTITUTE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
3rd Floor, Bocobo Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1101
Tel. No. 920-55-14 local 208 and 209; Telefax No. 929-71-37
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MCLE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM
10-14 July 2006

Date	Subject	MCLE Credit Units	Lecturers
10 July (Monday)	Effective Availment of Modes of Discovery (*Substantive/Procedural Law*)	Three (3) units (9:00-12:15)	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin
	Problem Areas in Criminal Law & Procedure (*Substantive/Procedural Law*)	Three (3) units (1:00-4:15)	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta
11 July (Tuesday)	The Significance of the Lawyer's Oath (*Legal Ethics*)	Three (3) units (9:00-12:15)	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.
	International Commercial Arbitration (*Alternative Dispute Resolution*)	Three (3) units (1:00-4:00)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
	Court-Annexed, Court-Referred & CA Mediation (*Alternative Dispute Resolution*)	Two (2) units (4:15-6:15)	Prof. Rowena E.V. Daroy-Morales
12 July (Wednesday)	The Amendment & Revision of the Constitution (MCLE Committee Prescribed)	Three (3) units (9:00-12:15)	Justice Vicente V. Mendoza
	Trial Techniques (*Pre-Trial & Trial Skills*)	Four (4) units (1:00-5:15)	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
13 July (Thursday)	Starting Points in Legal Research & Writing (*Legal Writing*)	Four (4) units (8:00-12:15)	Prof. Myrna S. Feliciano
	Learning the Rules of Electronic Evidence (*MCLE Committee Prescribed*)	Three (3) units (1:00-4:15)	Atty. Ivan John E. Uy
14 July (Friday)	Problem Areas in Legal Ethics (*Legal Ethics*)	Three (3) units (9:00-12:15)	Atty. Ma. Tanya A. Lat
	WTO-GATTS (*International Law*)	Two (2) units (1:00-3:00)	Prof. Marvic MVF. Leonen
	DNA & the Courts (*Substantive/Procedural Law*)	Three (3) units (3:15-6:15)	Judge Nimfa Cuesta-Vilches
	Total	36 units	

- REGISTRATION FEE: P7,000.00/package or P750.00/session[morning session or afternoon session] The fee is inclusive of snacks, MCLECertificates of Attendance and lecture materials. NO LUNCH.
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DAR identifies new lands for CARP

By Christine Gaylican

TO JUSTIFY its bid for a five-year extension of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, the Department of Agrarian Reform yesterday said it has identified 500,000 hectares of new private and public agricultural lands for distribution to farmers under CARP.

"This gives us more leverage in justifying in Congress that CARP should be extended until maybe the year 2012 to 2013," Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman said in a recent press briefing.

CARP is set to expire in 2008. There is now a pending bill in Congress to extend the program.

Pangandaman said that some 130,000 hectares was targeted for distribution by DAR this year.

Now on its 18th year of implementation, the CARP has distributed 3.7 million hectares of agricultural lands to farmer-beneficiaries nationwide. However, 590,000 hectares are still pending for distribution.

Legal obstacles, however, have hindered the swift implementation of CARP in recent years.

The Foodfirst Information and Action Network-Philippines (Fian) said judicial obstruction has become a major problem for farmers who have certificates of land ownership but could not take over the lands due to court orders.

"The current situation of agrarian reform now is slow and hampered by judicial obstruction and lack of political will. It's worse than before, especially in the level of the regional trial courts and Court of Appeals," Fian's Manuel Quiambao said in a forum.

Quiambao noted that since last year, municipal and regional trial courts, and the Court of Appeals have been exempting or excluding haciendas already identified for CARP coverage.

The Court of Appeals, for example, excluded the 500-hectare sugar plantation owned by former Sen. Rene Espina in Tanjay City, Negros Oriental, from CARP coverage in a ruling issued in February.

The court decision displaced some 200 peasant farmers and effectively barred them from harvesting the rice and other food crops they planted in the lands earlier awarded to them.

"The Court of Appeals seems to be the body being used nowadays by landowners to block agrarian reform," Fian said in a statement.

Fian noted that land distribution under CARP has decreased significantly under the Arroyo administration, with the government distributing only 105,000 hectares in 2001, 111,000 hectares in 2002 and 97,000 in 2003.

In contrast, under President Fidel Ramos, an average of 314,000 hectares of land was distributed annually, and under President Joseph Estrada, 135,000 hectares, Fian said.

Eddie Lopez, president of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bondoc Peninsula, said even the DAR Adjudication Board, has reversed its decision to place around 18,000 hectares of coconut plantation in Quezon province under CARP.

Quiambao said only around 15 percent of 370,000 hectares of sugar lands in Negros have been distributed under CARP while some 700,000 hectares of coconut plantations in the Philippines have yet to be placed under CARP despite their eligibility.

"And we haven't even mentioned the haciendas owned by Cojuangcos, Floirendos, Lorenzos, Sebastians. . . The landowners are appealing to the higher courts to stop the (CARP) implementation, and we all know litigation takes years," Quiambao said.

He said the recent Supreme Court decision on the Roberto Cuenca case, saying lower courts have no jurisdiction over CARP cases was the only positive court ruling so far.

Gov't offensive on Joma a 'fight vs terror'

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY backed police and military efforts to prosecute exiled rebel chief Jose Maria Sison, accusing him of instigating terror in the Philippines by remote control.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said prosecuting Sison was meant to expose the Communist Party of the Philippines founder as an "enemy of democracy and freedom."

In a statement, Bunye described the government's legal offensive against Sison as a "fight against terror and dictatorship as it is a fight for democracy and justice."

"For too long, the leadership of the revolutionary left has sought refuge in a foreign land while commanding and controlling the agents of terror in the Philippines engaged in murder, extortion, the use of child soldiers and the deployment of land mines."

Bunye also said: "We are confident that as this case moves forward, he (Sison) will eventually be exposed as the enemy of democracy and freedom that he really is rather than the oppressed political refugee that he portrays himself."

Malacañang also reaffirmed its support for the decision by developed countries to include Sison, the CPP and the New People's Army on their lists of global terrorist organizations.

"The global community, including the United States and the European Union, are our strong allies against terror and both Mr. Sison and the NPA are on their lists," Bunye said.

Sison has vigorously denounced his and his group being labeled as terrorists. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Bayan Muna solons ready to run for Senate

From page A1

party and the Senate was the lack of funds.

"Many of our allies are suggesting that we run for the Senate. However, the type of electoral campaign for such a position requires hundreds of millions of pesos. We don't have that amount of money," Ocampo said at the weekly Kapihan sa Newsdesk in Quezon City.

"There are also invitations for us to be a guest candidate in a party slate," he added.

Casiño also said Bayan Muna was considering running for the Senate, except that money was "a huge obstacle."

"But as far as nationwide party machinery and political foundation are concerned, Bayan Muna already has what it takes," he said.

Asked if the party was ripe for the Senate, Casiño said categorically: "Yes."

Crucial stage

According to Ocampo, the present time is "a crucial stage" in Philippine politics.

"There is a trend, after the long battle with the Marcos dictatorship, to allow political dissenters to participate [in the parliamentary struggle]," he said.

But officials like National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales want Bayan Muna and other leftist political groups out of mainstream politics, Ocampo said.

"That's the reason cases have been filed against us," he said, referring to the charge of rebellion filed against him, Casiño and four other militant party-list representatives.

"[The government has] no case of rebellion against us. But now there is the brutal killing of our members," he said.

Ocampo urged journalists "to watch the coming developments."

"Rightists are holding court, and in the process they are subverting what they say they uphold," he added.

Gonzales' PDSP

Ocampo said the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP) headed by Gonzales had twice been thwarted in its effort to make it in the party-list race.

"It twice ran in the party-list elections but failed to muster the required 300,000 votes [for party-list representation]," he said.

On the other hand, Bayan Muna got 1.7 million votes in 2001 and 1.2 million votes in 2004. *(See What Went Before.)*

"We had less votes in 2004 because Bayan Muna expanded its base" and parts of its constituency voted for its allied party-list groups, Casiño said, adding that the coalition now included Anakpawis, Gabriela, the overseas Filipino workers group Migrante, and the Bangsamoro advocacy group Suara.

He said the Left's presence in the House had likewise expanded to six—three from Bayan Muna (Ocampo, Joel Virador and himself) two from Anakpawis (Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano) and one from Gabriela (Liza Maza).

Morale high

Both Ocampo and Casiño said the morale of Bayan Muna members remained high despite the series of unsolved killings and the political persecution of their ranks.

They said the issue was discussed at Bayan Muna's national council meeting two weeks ago.

"The killings have had an immediate yet temporary effect in the pace of the organization because we have given instructions to our organizers to be wary," Ocampo said.

"Of course, if there's an assassination in one area, our organizers have to lie low. But the determination to press for our rights remains," he said.

'Treacherous killings'

With neither arms nor means to secure themselves with bodyguards, Ocampo said Bayan Muna's counteroffensive had been to expose "the treacherous killings, the gross violation of human rights."

"The results have been good. The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has spoken [against the unsolved killings]. The Commission on Human Rights has also issued a strong statement," Ocampo said.

WHAT WENT BEFORE

Twice No. 1

AS EARLY AS 1987, leftist activists have tried to enter mainstream politics.

In that year, months after he was freed from prison, former New People's Army chief Bernabe "Kumander Dante" Buscayno and six others—Nelia Sancho, Crispin Beltran, Romeo Capulong, Horacio Morales Jr., Jaime Tadeo and Jose Burgos Jr.—ran for seats in the Senate under the militant Partido ng Bayan in the first national elections held after Edsa I.

But all seven lost.

Fourteen years later, the political party Bayan Muna emerged topnotcher in the 2001 party-list elections with 1.7 million votes, allowing Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza and Beltran seats in the House of Representatives.

Beltran and Maza resigned from Bayan Muna in 2003 to help form their own party-list groups—Anakpawis and Gabriela Women's Party, respectively.

They were replaced in Bayan Muna by Joel Virador and Siegfred Deduro.

In the 2004 elections, Bayan Muna garnered 1.2 million votes, making it the topnotcher for the second time.

Ocampo, its president, Virador and Teodoro Casiño now represent it in the House. ***Minerva Generalao and Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***

High court stops Luisita distribution to farmers

From page A1

sion or revocation of said agreement."

Violation

Thus, he said the planned government takeover of Hacienda Luisita for distribution to farmers was violative of the "constitutional protection against the impairment of contractual rights and obligations and deprivation of its (HLI) property without due process of law."

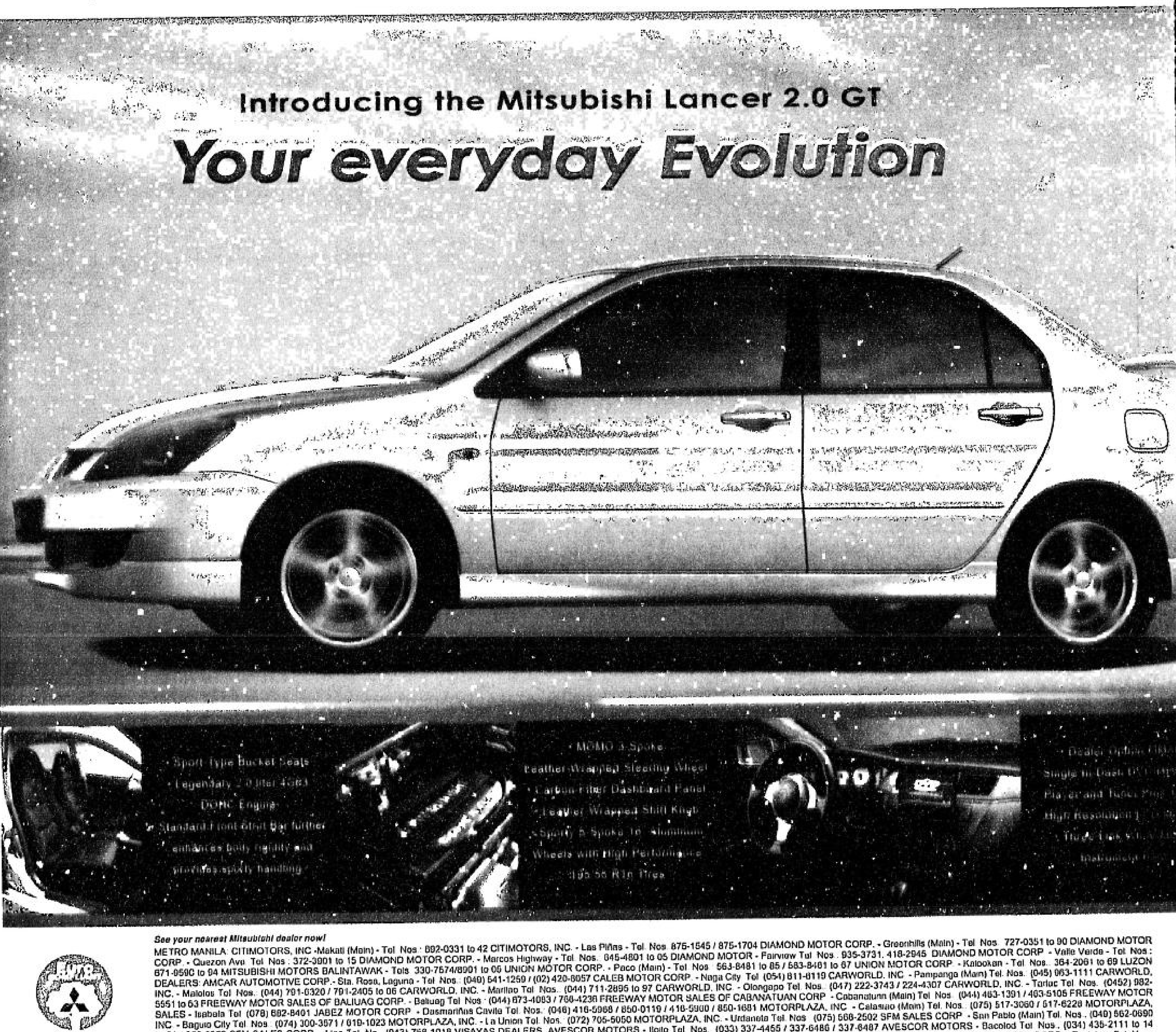
Elma pointed out that the SDOA had been approved by PARC itself on Nov. 21, 1989 after 5,498 hacienda workers out of a total 6,296 opted to be part of it.

In a follow-up referendum conducted by the DAR on Oct. 14, 1989, 5,117 out of a total 5,315 farmworkers-beneficiaries opted to receive shares in HLI and only 132 preferred land distribution, he explained.

Under the said SDOA, P3 billion in salaries, wages and fringe benefits representing 3 percent of the gross sales of the production of agricultural land had been handed to the farmworker/beneficiaries, HLI said.

In the petition, Elma asked the high court to resolve the issue of "whether PARC and Pangandaman have the jurisdiction, power" and "authority to nullify, recall, revoke or rescind the SDOA."

With AFP report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3 WARRANTY

Mild quake jolts Zambo

A MODERATE 4.9-MAGNITUDE EARTHquake shook the southern Philippines yesterday but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, officials said.

The epicenter of the quake was just off the coast of the Zamboanga peninsula, about 110 km north of Zamboanga City, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said in a statement.

The quake hit at 3:24 a.m. and sent objects swaying in nearby towns, although there were no reports of panic, damage or injuries.

The Philippines sits on what is commonly referred to as the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a zone of frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that encircles the Pacific Ocean basin.

Although about five quakes hit the Philippines every day, few are felt. Only three major, destructive tremors have been recorded in more than 30 years,' according to the institute.

AFP

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Pinoy or not, Asi must pay millions in taxes—BIR

From page A1

When the BIR filed its complaint, however, it failed to cite the exact amount of Taulava's income earned here and the amount of taxes he should pay. Neither did the DOJ charge sheet detailed his tax dues.

State Prosecutor Ma. Cristina A. Montera-Barrot, who recommended the filing of the case before the Court of Tax Appeals, said that Taulava, whether he is half-Filipino or not, should pay taxes for income he had earned here.

Taulava, who was born in Tonga, is a member of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s (PLDT) Talk 'N Text team.

Montera-Barrot said that "it is undisputed that [Taulava], being an alien prior to being recognized as [a] Filipino citizen on June 21, whether a resident or not, who derived income from sources within the Philippines, is legally obliged to pay or [be] subject to income taxes."

Income made in RP

She said this was pursuant to the provision of the NIRC stating that an "alien individual, whether a resident or not of the Philippines, is taxable only on income derived form sources within the Philippines."

Based on information from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Taulava started to earn income in the Philippines in 1998 when he was engaged by DDS Productmakers to play in their Blu Detergent team where he received P300,000 every month.

In 1999, Adidas Phils. Inc. paid him P1 million to endorse the company's products, and from 1999 to 2001, Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel) engaged his services as a "skilled professional athlete" to play for their team in the Philippine Basketball Association.

He inked a contract to play with the PLDT team from June 1, 2001 to Dec. 31, 2005.

Unaware of tax laws

In his defense, Taulava claimed that from 1999 to 2003, his employers deducted P3,762,466.67 in taxes "withheld at source."

He also said that since he was "raised and had lived in the US since birth, he was not familiar nor was he aware of the intricacies of the tax laws when he came to the Philippines in 1998 as a 25-year-old aspiring basketball player," and had "relied heavily" on his business manager Ricardo Santos.

Taulava added that he had "relied on his employer (Piltel and PLDT) who were legally obliged to file the correct or proper withholding tax returns" on his behalf.

However, the DOJ said: "Non-familiarity with our tax laws cannot be made an excuse for non-compliance with the provisions of the NIRC of 1997."

Taulava's failure to file his annual income tax returns for "six consecutive years, from 1998 to 2003, is indicative of his willful intent to cheat the government of its due taxes," the DOJ added.

IN THE KNOW

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REvoked Paul "Asi" Taulava's certificate of recognition as a Filipino in 1999 because of discrepancies in Taulava's birth certificate and that of his mother's.

The basketball star claimed that his mother was a Filipina and his father was a Tongan, making him half-Filipino and half-Tongan.

His birth certificate, however, showed that his mother was born in Vautu, Tonga. But the birth certificate of Taulava's mother indicated she was born in San Jose, Northern Samar.

Based on the DOJ decision, the Bureau of Immigration ordered Taulava's summary deportation.

The athlete appealed his case and on Feb. 2, 2000, Taulava's mother, Paulina Hernandez Mateaki Taulava, testified before the BI Board of Commissioners that she was born in Samar in 1950, and that she was still a Filipino when her son was born in 1973. Mrs. Taulava became a naturalized Tongan citizen only in 1976.

However, the BI declared Taulava ineligible to play with any team and eventually had him blacklisted.

Taulava left the country on May 11, 2000. He returned in June 2001 and submitted documents signed by witnesses attesting that Taulava's mother was Filipino and that the Hernandez clan existed in Catarman and San Jose in Samar. Then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez reversed DOJ's earlier decision and recognized Taulava as a Filipino.

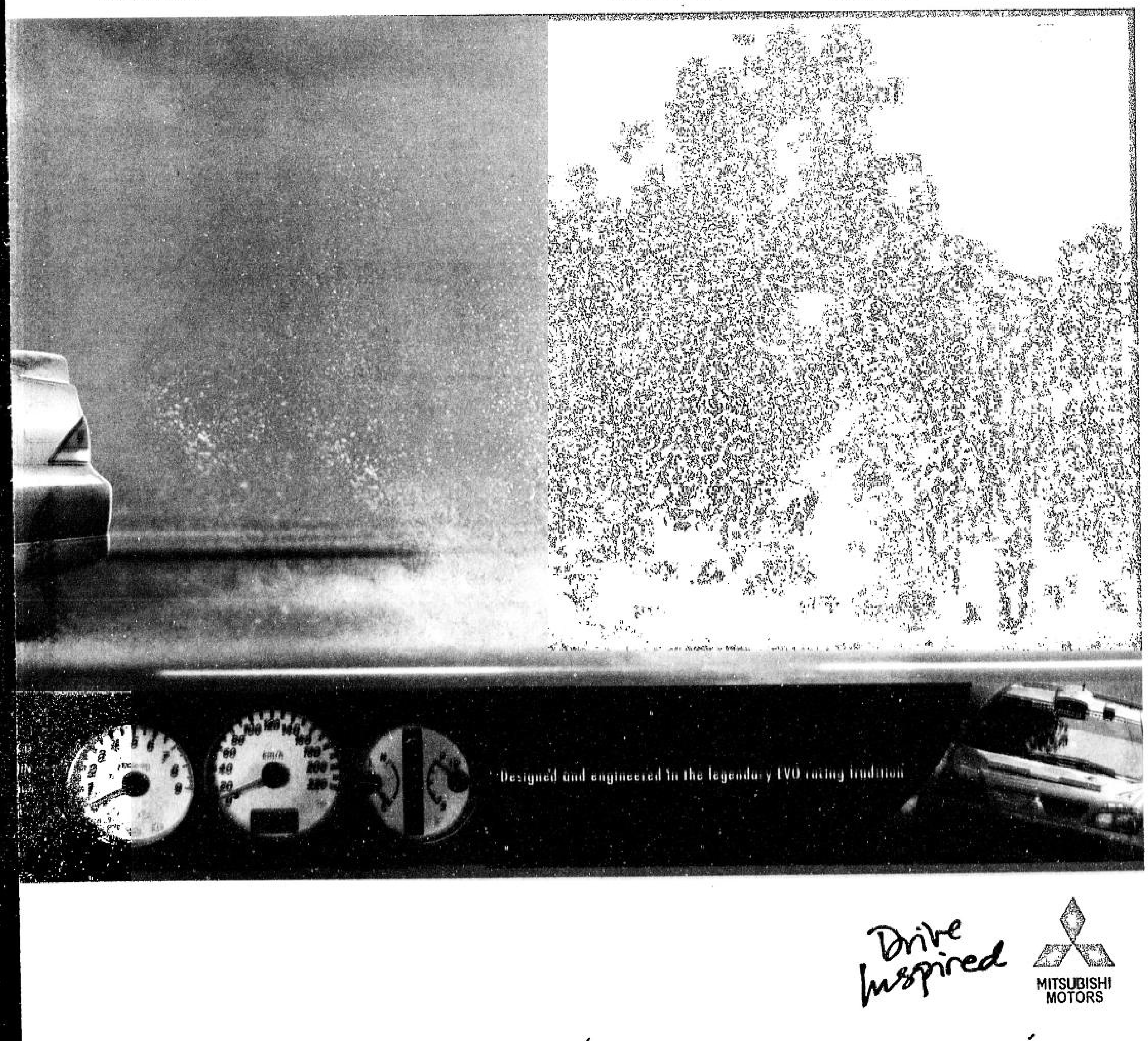
On Aug. 7, 2003, the Senate Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports, headed by the late Sen. Robert Barbers released a report which found the documents submitted by Taulava as fake. The committee urged the BI to deport the basketball star.

TAULAVA FILE PHOTO

In June 2005, the Court of Appeals upheld the Filipino citizenship of Taulava. In their decision, the justices said that "Taulava's natural-born citizenship was already recognized by the BI Board of Commissioners, which enjoys the presumption of regularity in the performance of their duties."

A few months later, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez sought for Taulava's deportation and cancellation of his Filipino citizenship because his documents and birth certificate were fake.

On Nov. 3, 2005, Taulava asked the Supreme Court to junk Gonzalez's petition. *Mel Lawrence de Guzman, PDI Research*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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

2 more firms face tax raps

THE BUREAU OF INternal Revenue yesterday filed separate charges of tax evasion against two corporations—one engaged in the sale of computers and heavy equipment and another in motoring—for allegedly defrauding the government of millions of pesos in unpaid taxes.

One World Multi-Industries and its president and treasurer, Johnny Co, were charged with evading the payment of some P445.8 million in taxes. The BIR said it received an anonymous e-mail urging the agency to examine the records of the company.

One World was found to have no record of tax returns from 2001 to 2003. It filed returns in 2000 but claimed it had no operations.

In the second case, the BIR charged Sun Motors Industries Development Corp., the exclusive distributor of "Skywing and Skystar" Chinese-made scooters and motorcycles for non-payment of taxes amounting to P6.3 million. Also charged were the company's president, also named Johnny Co, treasurer Rascell Labindeo and executive assistant Patrick Hocchuan.

The investigation was also spurred by an e-mailed tip.

The BIR said that Sun Motors had overstated its deductions by claiming fictitious domestic purchases amounting to P5.39 million. *C. Balana, N. Flores*

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OPINION

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Full disclosure

EDITORIAL

THERE WAS MASSIVE CHEATING DURING THE 2004 elections and the cheater greatly benefited from it, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said Wednesday. The cheating was concentrated in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and its end-result was that President Macapagal-Arroyo was credited with at least 662,00 more votes than she actually got.

Did the cheating alter the outcome of the elections? Biazon would not say, but he pointed out that this was not what the Senate investigation sought to establish. "We are not trying to prove who won, but definitely the cheating benefited GMA," he said.

The Senate committee on national defense headed by Biazon has conducted seven hearings on the "Hello Garci" controversy since August last year. While top civilian and military officials were barred from testifying by Executive Order 464, Biazon said there was enough oral and written evidence to warrant the conclusion of rampant cheating in the polls. "My initial evaluation of the testimony and evidence points to massive cheating," he said.

Malacañang and its allies say, however, that Biazon is flogging a dead horse. "The senator is trying to revive an issue that the public is tired of and wants to leave behind," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. "Pure hallucination," said Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay. "He (Biazon) should not have issued that statement when they do not have enough evidence to back up their claims."

But if Biazon's disclosure proves anything, it's that the issue is not dead and buried as the administration wants it to be. And indeed it would be a sad day for Philippine democracy if Filipinos grow weary of the issue and choose to forget about it like a bad dream.

Since the "Hello Garci" scandal broke a year ago, nothing has been explained, nothing has been cleared, nothing has been settled. Instead, the administration has mounted a massive cover-up, beginning with administration allies in the House of Representatives making short shrift of an impeachment complaint directly linking the President to allegations of election fraud and tampering with election returns. When the Senate opened an inquiry into the controversy, Malacañang tried to block it by forbidding military and civilian officials from appearing before the Biazon committee. After the Supreme Court declared EO 464 unconstitutional, Malacañang insisted on enforcing the gag order, pending the resolution of its appeal. It's obvious that instead of helping clear up the issue, the administration is employing every trick in the book to evade it or hide it.

All these attempts at a cover-up have not lifted the cloud of illegitimacy over the Arroyo presidency. Instead, they only make the President look guilty. To the public, there can be no more eloquent testimony to prove the President's guilt than the administration's refusal to confront the issue. And for as long as it refuses to do so, this crisis of legitimacy will hound Ms Arroyo until the end of her presidency and beyond. For unless the truth is told about what transpired between Ms Arroyo and then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and the things they talked about, the administration is not going to hear the last about this scandal. Without full disclosure, there can be no closure to this disgraceful episode.

U-turn by US

FOREIGN COMMENT

CONSIDERING THAT US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH SELdom changes his political course, or even admits errors, the new American attitude toward the talks with Iran is remarkable.

If the Americans sit down at the same table as the Iranians, we're talking about the first high level contacts in a generation between the Islamic state and the world's sole remaining superpower.

For the United States, it will be a considerable U-turn as the clerical regime for many years has been seen as an important supporter of international terrorism.

The change of course has been brought on by the solidarity between the great powers regarding the Iranian nuclear arms plans faltering and in danger of collapse.

The reality is that President Bush must see that the Iranians have exploited the disagreement about the course between the United States and Britain on one side and Russia and China on the other.

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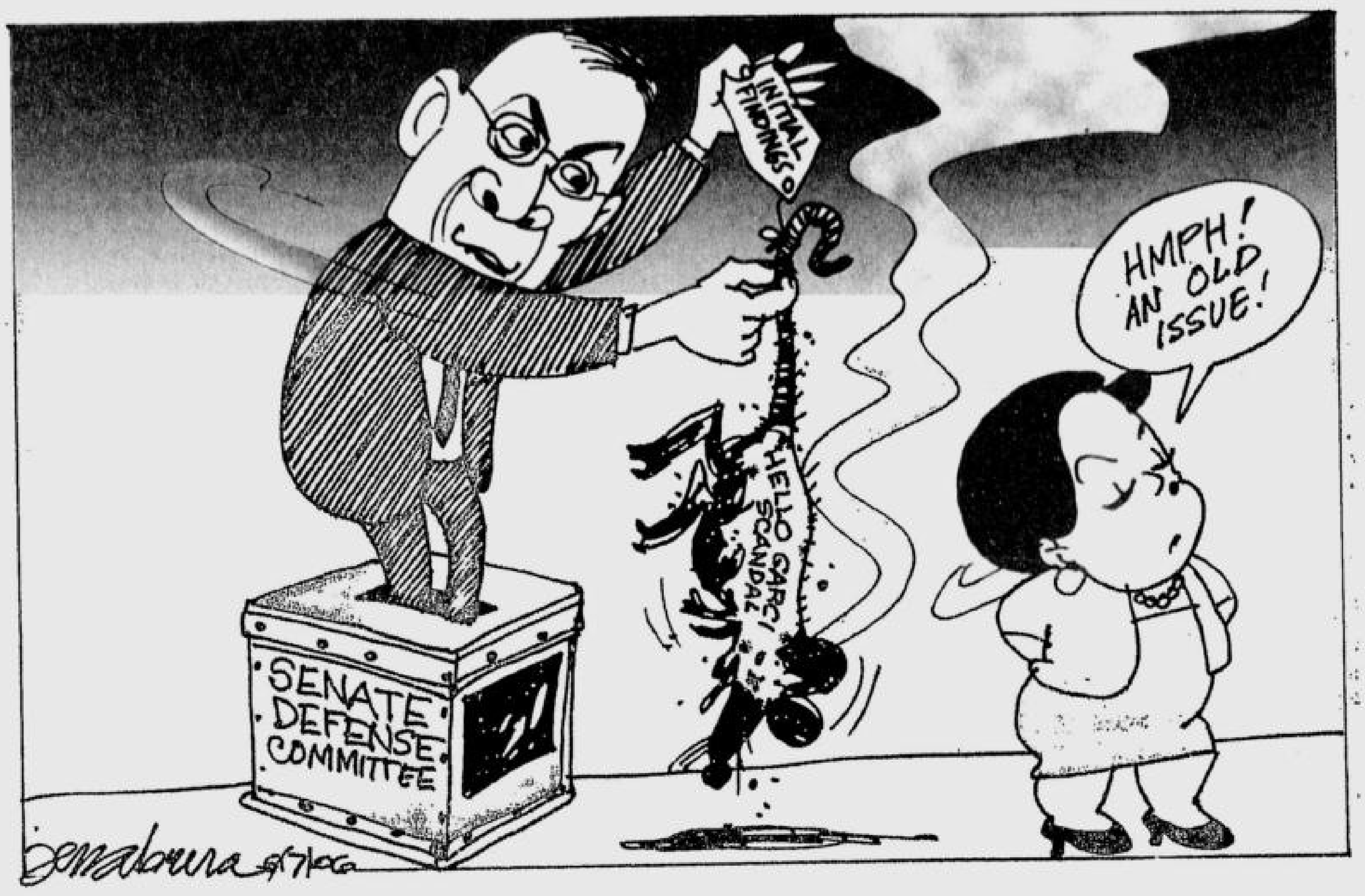

Dangerous diversions

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

AFTER MUCH REFLECTION, I HAVE COME TO the worrisome conclusion about the principal reason for our deteriorating society. It will pour a vial of wrath upon my head, but I will identify it just the same. The root cause of our nation's pathetic condition is the entertainment industry.

Not the NPA and the other bandit groups, not the *trapos* for all their insatiable avarice, not the social climbers and their mindless extravagance, not the crooks in government and the private sector, not the sanctimonious evangelists and their regimented followers, not even the barefaced apologists in Malacañang for their irredeemable offenses.

Not they but the entertainers are the culprits most responsible for the stagnation of our economy, the deterioration of the nation's morals, the escalation of criminality and violence, the misdirection of the youth, the alienation of the poor and underprivileged, and the decline of our esteem in the international community.

Our reputation in the eyes of the world was deservedly high when we waged our peaceful revolution in Edsa I and toppled Ferdinand Marcos and his rapacious regime. We had set a magnificent example to other nations that successfully followed us in deposing their own tyrants without bloodshed and violence.

There was much hope in us—and for us—to begin again on a clean slate to rehabilitate our wounded democracy. But we fumbled it. The Freedom Constitution had called for the eradication of "the iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime," but we ignored that urgent command. Instead, we blandly renewed those rejected vestiges and brought us back to the desperate days of martial law. The Marcos gang is still with us, none of them punished for their crimes, many of them still wealthy with their stolen fortunes, and some of them back in power in the councils of government and the boardrooms of industry. It is because we, the people they have betrayed, have become so unfeeling as to forgive their terrible sins and allow them to evade their just retribution.

It seems improbable if not ludicrous to connect their misdeeds to the entertainment industry that is apparently uninvolved in the serious problems of the country. But while it may appear that its only purpose is to amuse the *bakya* crowd, a closer look will reveal the sinister consequence of its dangerous diversions.

Let us remember that the entertainment industry was the most submissive and noisiest barker of the Marcos dictatorship. Its principal figures competed with each other in shamelessly toadying to the rulers in Malacañang and their shameful sycophants. With only a few courageous exceptions, the entertainers obsequiously displayed their bootlicking for the despot, who rewarded them with generous favors, including monetary grants and appointments to high offices. Many of these beneficiaries are still active today in their adjustable career.

It is this industry that has remained, among the shady elements of our society, as the most pervasive and persuasive influence on the mostly unthinking masses who constitute the voting majority of our people. If many of our citizens have not been exercising their suffrages properly, it is because they have been misguided principally by the practitioners of the entertainment industry.

Benjamin Franklin said that if the people misuse their suffrages, the remedy is not to withdraw the precious privilege from them but to teach them in its proper use. The entertainment industry, which has the most available access to the people through the movies, television, radio and the tabloids, is instead purposely miseducating them.

The Philippine entertainment industry is not only a vast wasteland, as television has been described in America, but a vicious instrument for the abatement of the nation's intelligence. The shows it offers for the supposed recreation of the people are generally vulgar and smutty, usually with some little moral lesson inserted to make them look respectable, but offensive nonetheless. On the whole, they are obnoxious and unwholesome and deserve to be trashed.

The indiscriminate audience eagerly laps them up because it has not been taught to be selective and more demanding of better quality shows for their pastime. In fact, the easily satisfied fans have been taught the exact opposite reaction—to accept whatever garbage the industry offers them and, to add insult to their injury, to pay for it too.

The leaders of the entertainment industry are supposed to be responsible people but they have evaded their duty to elevate the taste of their mostly unthinking supporters. They have instead cheapened them into a mass of automated individuals whose ultimate joy is to roll up in the aisles at the lewd jokes of potential senators.

Who are the voters who have elevated dubious entertainers, past and present, to high public positions? It is the idolaters of show-biz personalities who have proved that entertainers in general, with their limited talents and exaggerated ambitions, are better suited to the box office than to the public office they have polluted and debased.

So, am I being intolerant for blaming the entertainment industry for degrading our electorate? Pardon me for speaking the truth.

Kerfuffle

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

I READ THE "LESSON GUIDES ON ADOLEScent reproductive Health." It contains the prototype lesson plans on adolescent reproductive health concepts that have been the subject of recent controversy. After going through the material designed for high school English, Pilipino, Health Education, Araling Panlipunan (Social Studies), Science (Biology) and Technology and Livelihood Education, I couldn't figure out, what the kerfuffle was all about. In fact, I was rather impressed with the output, developed by education experts with funds from a UN agency. I didn't get even a whiff of an impression that the material, expressly or impliedly, was encouraging premarital sex—in fact, the structural message was the opposite.

Thinking I must have missed something, I reread it, and caught the word "condom" (which I missed the first time probably because the two times it was mentioned was toward the bottom of the same page). Both times, the word was used in connection with the prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), which was discussed in the Biology lesson plan. I still didn't see what the shouting was all about. So I asked my youngest (Katrina, a lawyer) to please go over the document, and tell me what she thought of the material. She read it carefully, pointed out some of the weaknesses, but shared my impression that it was pretty good, helpful stuff for its target audience.

So that's the bottom line. The DepEd module is pretty good stuff. And given the problems we face—namely (1) increasing sexual activity, with premarital sex, among the 15 to 24 years of age, rising from 18 percent in 1994 to 23 percent in 2002, and NCR showing the highest at 35 percent, and ARMM the lowest at 12 percent; (2) the same age group accounting for 17 percent of all cases of induced abortion in the country; and (3) teenage pregnancies accounting for three out of four maternal deaths—it is high time that the ignorance of adolescents be addressed in a way that will allow them to make an informed choice. Which is what the module tries to do. And I am pretty sure that anyone who reads the material will agree that it is a pretty effective way of extending that information and encouraging adolescents to make the better choices. Unless, of course, one is predisposed to find fault from the beginning, and is willing to use imagination to do so.

It is not perfect, certainly—but neither does it deserve the savage criticism leveled against it, specifically by one Angelita Miguel-Aguirre, M.D., in a letter to acting Education Secretary Fe Hidalgo—which letter sparked the whole kerfuffle. And the material surely does not deserve to be relegated to the dustbin—as it has been—by Secretary Hidalgo, who ordered the material to be withdrawn upon orders (this is grapevine) from Malacañang.

Who is this Dr. Aguirre, whose letter caused the demise of a much-needed program? Her letter, written on a stationery of the Makati Medical Center Department of Medicine, shows her as "Training Officer and Chair, Committee on Bioethics, Department of Medicine, Makati Medical Center and Makati Medical Society." But she also has been identified in the media as being with the Human Life International, a core group of the Episcopal Commission on Family and Life of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

So I also read Dr. Aguirre's letter. Carefully. And I must say that Luz Tancangco, who has earned the reputation of jumping to conclusions across chasms of illogic, may have more than met her match in the field of bioethics.

Let me illustrate. Aguirre begins her letter by claiming that the module is actively promoting "value free sex education" (emphasis hers). "It claims to foster values, restraint and responsibility, yet it implies that sexual activity out of marriage maybe (sic) acceptable for as long as it does not result to (sic) 'unwanted pregnancy' and STI by protected sex." In other words, she is damning the material not for what it shows directly (a lot of the lesson plans involve discussing or illustrating values, or illustrate rather graphically what happens when a certain choice is made as in pictures of STIs, or disadvantages of "going steady") but for what it implies. And the implication she draws is weak: that premarital sex **may** be acceptable (as opposed to is acceptable). That's really stretching.

Aguirre's exaggerations dot the letter. Condoms, in the DepEd module, are mentioned in the context of STIs (by the way, abstinence is also included in that list of preventive actions—the safest sex being no sex). No claim is made that condoms assure safe sex. The description is "safer" sex. And no one, with the possible exception of Aguirre, can deny that using condoms is more effective than not using condoms at all to prevent STIs). What is more, nowhere in the module is the use of condoms for birth control even mentioned (in fact, birth control methods is not even a topic). Yet Aguirre's letter makes a federal case out of it.

Then there is Aguirre's assertion that the rationale for the module is supposed to be—and she quotes—"overpopulation and poverty." Again, this is nowhere in the module.

And yet, because of these exaggerations and accusations, fanned in the media (where the assertion was made that the program would be implemented nationally this school year), the pilot testing of these modules has been stopped, thus condemning our young to ignorance and its consequences

Senators draw ire of 1.7 million-strong ULAP

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SENATE CROSSED SWORDS WITH THE administration when it decided to cut P64 billion from the 2006 budget. President Macapagal-Arroyo said she would veto the budget unless the cuts were restored. But the veto didn't happen as the House panel in the bicameral conference committee adopted her stand, resulting in a deadlock. As a result, the government now operates on a reenacted budget.

The senators' intransigence has provoked the 1.7 million-strong Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines into threatening the reelectionists among them. Ulap members, which include all governors and mayors down to barangay officials, threaten to withhold support from the senators in the 2007 elections "if they insist on playing hardball politics at the expense of countryside development."

* * *

Ulap is very much aggrieved because most of the P64-billion cut from the budget would go to infrastructure and development projects in the rural areas, among them the P5-billion Kilos Asenso Fund. Another P3 billion would fund the construction of roads, school buildings as well as water and electric facilities in 1,000 conflict-ridden barangays.

The senators, who must campaign nationwide, are entirely dependent on the support of Ulap. If the latter unites against them, their chances of reelection would be seriously affected.

I can understand the local officials' grievance. Recall that the 2005 budget was just a few billions shy of P1 trillion, which is the budget for 2006. If the senators feel that the 2006 budget is excessive, why did they pass the 2005 budget?

At the height of the word war over the budget, I overheard some House members say they could understand if a few billion pesos were lopped off by the senators, but to take away P64 billion would cripple the administration's anti-poverty program. Is this the aim of the senators? Come 2007, they will have a lot of explaining to do to the people.

The huge budget cut could trigger a stronger push from the LGUs for a unicameral legislature in the likely event that a referendum is held later this year. The people's initiative received a recent big boost when former President Fidel V. Ramos threw his support behind it. There seems to be an all-out war now between the senators and local officials, including members of the House.

* * *

Recently, I cited the opinion of various foreign investment firms that our economic fundamentals are sound and on track, but the complaint is often heard that the benefits of sound economics has not trickled down to the masses, who remain poor. At the opening ceremony of the First Philippines-China Economic Partnership at the Manila Hotel last June 5, Speaker Jose de Venecia sought to tackle this problem as he sought a number of concessions from Chinese officials, led by Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai. But he reserved his strongest plea for China to put up "housing factories" in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. JDV sought to persuade the Chinese to build one million low-cost houses "so that the benefit of RP development could reach and be felt by the great masses of our people." He also asked the Chinese to build 75,000 to 100,000 schoolhouses so we could put an end to the perennial classroom shortage.

The beauty of housing and classroom construction is that it jumpstarts some 60 allied industries—from the manufacture of wood to cement, nails, GI sheets and electrical material to tiles and décor items. It also creates tens of thousands of jobs in various fields. Nothing beats housing and JDV realizes this only too well.

* * *

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes' decision to give Lafayette Mining a 30-day trial run to prove it can operate its zinc and copper mine on Rapu-Rapu Island without violating environmental standards is eliciting a lot of praise. Recall that Lafayette was suspended for seven months after two cyanide spills late last year. The government imposed as a condition for a new permit that the company put in place new safeguards and pay a P10.4-million fine. But this did not prevent demands from various militant groups not only to close down Lafayette for good, but also to repeal the Mining Law. Luckily, sensible heads prevailed, and a trial run was conceived. As Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, in whose province Lafayette operates, opined, "Allowing (the mining firm) to tentatively resume operations is an example of government's resolve to forge a viable balance between progress and ecology."

I've always stressed that our country has to exploit, jointly with foreign investors, our vast mineral wealth, estimated at $1 trillion, in order to rescue our people from the bondage of poverty. But this has to be done in a manner that provides adequate protection to the national patrimony and promotes the welfare of our citizens.

* * *

Employers who wish to give their househelp a chance at self-improvement, which can at the same time benefit their homes and families, can enroll them in Punlaan School's home skills training program. Punlaan, a government-recognized and multi-awarded school dedicated to uplifting the plight of househelpers, is located at M. Paterno Street in San Juan, Metro Manila. It is offering a 10-month program for househelp, which includes cooking, both local and international cuisine, housekeeping and auxiliary services such as setting the table, serving wines, etc., values education and doctrinal formation, and very basic English. They will also take a few cultural trips. The home skills program, which costs P1,000 a month per student, will be divided into two groups, one held every Wednesday, starting July 5, and the other every Friday, starting July 7, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For particulars, call Lolit Parcasio, Punlaan adviser for home skills, at 726-0581 and 726-0582.

A doomed flight and a sex pioneer

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOUR AIRPLANES, ALL DOMESTIC AMERICAN commercial flights, were hijacked by members of the al-Qaida on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. All but one reached their destinations—two ramming the twin towers of the World Trade Center in Manhattan, and another crashing into the Pentagon. The only flight that failed to reach its target, apparently the US Capitol, crashed instead in a field in Pennsylvania. This was United Airlines Flight 93.

What happened that morning, and on board the United flight, is told in the movie "United 93," a story, recounted documentary-style, that brings those hours of tension and confusion to life—and the moviegoer into the plane itself—sharing the feelings that must have engulfed United 93's 40 passengers and crew, all of whom perished in the crash.

It would have been so easy for the filmmakers to follow the trajectory of most disaster movies—setting up the characters and giving us their back stories to make them more empathetic, recreating a horrific disaster, then tracking the protagonists' gradual rise to heroism, if not martyrdom. But director and screenwriter Paul Greengrass doesn't seem interested in creating a blockbuster flick with cardboard characters and a predictable structure. Though we all know how it ends, the movie still manages to draw us in and engage our emotions, and lets us see the humanity. Yes, including the four al-Qaida members, especially the leader of the cell who is shown calling up someone on his cell phone just before boarding and telling that person "I love you."

* * *

I ESPECIALLY appreciated Greengrass' decision to field unknown actors, including some of the actual people on the ground that day. The use of the actual flight controllers and commanders gives "United 93" a sense of authenticity and immediacy, an honest recreation of the confusion, shock and frustration felt by everyone trying to make sense of the unimaginable events of the day.

The movie certainly reveals a lot about the bureaucratic snafus that mired the American government's attempts to thwart the terrorists. Most amusing is the frequent plaint of the military command center chief who can't seem to contact President Bush who is "missing in action," and whose permission is needed before Air Force jets can be authorized to fire on a civilian target.

Greengrass makes no ideological or, indeed, even emotional points. Meticulously tracing what transpired onboard "United 93" from transcripts of the cockpit flight recorder and of phone conversations, he instead presents ordinary people rising above their own fear and confusion and forging an alliance that foils the hijackers. But I was most touched by scenes of the passengers calling up their families, telling them over and over—"Whatever happens, remember that I love you." No one was thinking of business or daily concerns that day, but only of grabbing one last chance to tell others of their love, a love that apparently transcends time and death.

* * *

IN TRYING to get a grip on questions of sexuality, people of all ages have one question uppermost in their minds: "Is it normal?" Whether the matter at hand is about masturbation or penis size, ambivalent sexuality or unusual positions, people are concerned about how they compare with others, whether their feelings, urges, proclivities or desires are the norm, or if these place them in the category of "abnormal," "queer," "immoral" or, as the more strident would put it, "an abomination before God."

This was the question most often put to Alfred Kinsey in the 1940s. At that time a professor of biology at Indiana University, Kinsey pioneered a "marriage course" that sought to debunk the myths and moralizing then surrounding sex, and to examine it from a strictly scientific and behavioral viewpoint. But when confronted with the question "Is it normal?" once too many times, Kinsey realized that there was no serious, scientific and objective study on which he could base a satisfactory answer.

The result of Kinsey's "aha!" moment was the publication in 1948 of a book called "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male," followed by its counterpart "Sexual Behavior in the Human Female." Both books were the result of a groundbreaking and sweeping study, based on detailed interviews with thousands of respondents all across the United States. When the books first came out, the media compared their impact with the atom bomb, at once shocking with its provocative findings on sexual practices and preferences; and at the same time reassuring with its accounts of how common some of the more worrisome matters actually were.

* * *

"KINSEY," written and directed by Bill Condon, paints a portrait of the man who revolutionized the study of sexual behavior. As portrayed by Liam Neeson, Kinsey was the son of a repressive and controlling father who found personal freedom in the study of nature, and made science—with its key values of disinterested observation and reliance on fact—his object of devotion.

But his tenacity and dedication was also enabled and inspired by his wife Clara, whom he fondly called "Mac" (a luminous and nuanced portrayal by Laura Linney) and his inner circle of researchers, who not only shared his dedication to the cause but also took part in experiments in shared sex, all in pursuit of Kinsey's latter thesis that sex was a mere biological need that could be divorced from emotion or commitment.

This was, of course, a controversial stance and Kinsey would become, in time, a controversial figure courting the wrath of social conservatives. But "Kinsey" the movie proves an amazingly entertaining, engrossing and, quite unexpectedly, funny portrait of a man who considered himself mainly a scientist and ended up a sexual provocateur.

In RP, private schools critical to public education

COMMENTARY

Juan Miguel Luz

A ROBUST EDUCATION SECTOR CONSISTS OF both healthy private schools and quality public schools. While it is the government's responsibility to provide free public education as a constitutional right, private education should exist as an alternative choice for Filipino parents.

But if public education is in deep trouble, private education is in dire straits.

There are, in fact, two private school systems in the country: elite and non-elite. The elite are those that charge tuition upwards of P25,000 per year.

Then there are the non-elite: parochial schools, and those run by the Church, private groups and others, catering to children of families no different—in terms of income and status—from those attending public schools. It is these non-elite private schools that are in crisis.

Fr. Manuel Medina of the Lasalette Order told me that a P950-tuition increase (P95 a month, or a 14-percent hike, the first in three years) in his school in San Mateo, Isabela, led to a loss of 100 students (from 750 to 650, or a 13-percent loss). Where have they gone? To the already crowded public schools where no tuition is charged.

Shrinking private school sector. Thirty years ago, over 45 percent of all high school students went to private secondary schools. Today, less than 19 percent are left in these schools. And that share continues to drop.

Two factors explain this shift. First, the introduction of free public high school as a constitutional right led to the establishment of thousands of new public high schools throughout the country. Second, a more recent factor, the migration of students from private to public high schools because of rising tuition costs.

How many students have private high schools lost? Thousands each year. Many private high schools are thus running with empty seats, meaning, less revenue but the same expenses. Many are in real danger of closing shop altogether.

De facto cut in teachers' pay. Private schools are thus caught in a bind. Any increase in tuition fees leads to a significant reduction in enrollment; it is like signing their own death knell. So they have to keep tuition fees low, for which reason their teachers' salaries also remain extremely low. Here the differences between the elite and non-elite schools become more stark.

Elite schools can afford to pay teachers with a starting salary of P15,000 per month or higher. This is 50 percent higher than the starting pay of a public school teacher (Teacher I). For non-elite schools, the situation is reversed. In SY 2003-04, the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines (CEAP) reported an average starting monthly salary of P5,405 (secondary) to P5,968 (elementary) nationwide in its member schools.

Thus this irony: the poorly paid teachers are subsidizing non-elite private schools through their low salaries. What parents cannot afford, teachers are absorbing as a de facto cut in pay.

GASTPE as solution. The government has to help private schools not only to survive, but also to prosper and grow. GASTPE (Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education) is a subsidy to private high schools. Under the program, which is managed by the Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE) for DepED, the government buys up seats in accredited private high schools at a rate of P4,000 per student per year.

In SY 2005-06, GASTPE subsidized the study of 375,000 students in over 1,700 private high schools nationwide. The medium-term plan is to raise these numbers by 50,000 each year until the total number of scholars reaches 775,000 students, the number at which the pressure on our public schools would have been eased.

Who qualifies for GASTPE? Children from families with an annual income of less than P144,000 or 12,000, as set by the National Economic Development Authority for 2006.

GASTPE presents a less expensive proposition than building classrooms, hiring new teachers, buying new furniture, and providing books and materials for the same number of students. This school year, however, GASTPE is in danger of being highjacked by politics. A new scheme by the Arroyo administration will provide local government units with "vouchers" to be given to "qualified" households. The problem? a) Paper vouchers can be bought and sold in a black market (with families sending their children to free public schools once they have disposed of their vouchers); and b) because of the involvement of local government units, the selection process could become political rather than based on merit or need.

Private education's critical role. Not all who attend private schools are rich or belong to the elite. Many actually study in public elementary schools before switching to private high schools. But the poor economy is forcing parents to transfer their children back to public high schools. The result? Overcrowded classrooms, lack of education materials, shortage of teachers, and lack of textbooks, furniture and facilities.

This cannot continue if quality education is the objective. A healthy private school system will take some of the pressure off an overburdened public school system. The other side of the coin is this: If private schools close down, students will have no choice but to go to the already overcrowded public schools, thus further compounding the already intolerable situation there.

A strong private school system is necessary to revive our public schools.

Juan Miguel Luz is president of the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction. Until recently, he was DepEd undersecretary.

Dancing

YOUNG BLOOD

Marc Gregory Yu

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT IS A FACT WELL-SETTLED THAT SOME GUYS JUST can't dance. Unfortunately, I belong to this group of poor old chaps who can only sit in a corner, helplessly staring at the more gifted ones prancing away with some prize partners, wishing all the while that it's possible to switch shoes (and abilities). Trust me when I say that I've tried about as much and as hard as anybody else, without success. The last time I displayed my dancing talents onstage was during my junior year in high school. A classmate approached me afterwards to say in hushed, stiff tones that I resembled a bewildered robot skidding off course. And that's when I finally decided it's about time I gave my clumsy old self a well-deserved break.

No matter how-lousy I can be with dance steps, I wasn't exactly born with two left feet. You see, the art of dancing seems to run in the family. My parents can do a mean step or two, my siblings can follow the beat, and for one of my aunts, well, dancing is her life. My precocious childhood even had its own share of jiggling and wiggling, carefully preserved in photo frames and providing evidence for the whole story. There I am in the foreground during kindergarten days, grinning and eagerly leading the class in song-and-dance numbers.

Now, I suppose I can still do the singing part just fine, but the dancing aspect seems to have vanished altogether. What has happened to me since then?

Perhaps it had something to do with how I prioritized things as I moved on to grade school. At that time, the premiums were high for skills in speaking, singing, the visual arts and academics. Being the insufferable perfectionist that I was (and sometimes still am), I vigorously pursued each of these disciplines and even attempted to excel in all of them. Sometimes dancing was required, but only on very rare occasions, and since I didn't see it as a necessity, it was shoved further and further down my checklist of talents to hone as the years rolled by.

In high school, my focus was trained on studies and the activities of various school organizations. This meant even less of cha-cha and cartwheels. Only after some time did I realize that I was no longer the one performing and had been reduced to a lowly spectator whenever shake-your-thing numbers entered the scene. I was headed for a non-dancing future.

Fast forward to college. Just when I thought nothing out of the ordinary was going to take place in college, I found myself in the second sem of my second year and enrolled in a social dancing class for my PE. You can just imagine how reluctant I was to stuff my stuff for a grade. But dreading the prospect of flunking my first course (and presumably one that everybody pass with no sweat), I was left with no choice but to convince myself that it was going to be fun and that things wouldn't be so bad after all.

Optimists often credit half of the learning process to a positive attitude. In much the same way, sufficient warm-up provides an athlete with the maximum power to come up with a stellar performance. Though I am sure I never managed to dance exquisitely enough to be considered stellar, it was our instructor's words continuously ringing in my ears that kept me striving to master the cha-cha, gain control over the lively steps of the boogie and sway along with the swing. Simply enjoy what you are doing, my instructor said, and you will soon learn to internalize the dance and harmonize it with your emotions.

It didn't take long for me to see what she meant. Unexpected epiphanies led me to rediscover long lost pleasures on the dance floor. And the more I progressed, the more I understood the parallels between life and dance. It occurred to me that life is a form of dance: you live it according to your own rhythm and you need to breathed and to have grace, flexibility, balance and focus in order to succeed. Moreover, you get the bonus of being able to communicate with your partner without using words. It is a pleasant feeling to know that you are able to connect with someone else.

The funny thing is that months after reluctantly doing a bit of center stage stuff, I have started entertaining thoughts of hitting the ballroom with my newfound skill. But I think dancing is more than that. It's about revisiting a world I have left behind, about rekindling a thrill that lies deep within me, about looking at life face-to-face.

Although I can claim to be (ahem) relatively adept at going through the basic routine, I must confess that I still cannot execute the more complex moves effortlessly, much less elegantly. I am afraid I might end up being compared to a robot again, but at the moment I can only look with this envious admiration at the lucky guys who can do so.

Such green-eyed respect will sometimes drive a person to reach for the stars no matter the cost. Recently while switching channels, I happened to see a pair of Latino terpsichorean virtuosos giving it their all. It was an exhilarating sight, no doubt, and it made me realize that I have a very long way to go before I can catch up with such fabulous superstars. Nevertheless, after all I have gone through, I suppose what matters most is not how well you shake your bootie, but how well you make the most of whatever you can do. Whatever little dancing genes I have left, I'll try to put to good use. Which means that I'll be waiting for life's greatest dance yet.

Marc Gregory Yu, 18, is in his first year of medicine proper under the Intarmed Program of the University of the Philippines-Manila.

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THEY SAID

BIR meltdown

"The meltdown in (the) BIR collection effort is most dismaying and any remedy can only begin with a change in leadership to restore the public's faith in the agency. A report like this can only be submitted with a resignation letter as a cover memo."

—Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, reacting to the dismal revenue performance of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in April.

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‘Great again’ promise

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S “I'LL take RP to ‘Enchanted Kingdom’ of the First World” sounds very much like dictator Ferdinand Marcos' declaration “This nation shall be great again.” It also calls to mind GMA's high-flown rhetoric of failed promises.

She is inviting government employees to dream together with her. But she only stirs nightmares in them. GMA's call is a ploy to delay, if not deny, the quest of government employees for salary increase to cushion the impact of the worst economic crisis the country has ever experienced.

The Valentine bonus she promised this year, like the Christmas bonuses in years past, came late.

Last April 9, during the commemoration rites marking Araw ng Kagitingan at Mt. Samat, she promised to release P1 billion to the Veterans Federation of the Philippines. The amount was supposed to bankroll an increase in the war veterans' monthly old-age pension and the partial payment of monthly disability. But the veterans, who are now in the twilight years of their lives, until now, are still waiting for this promise to come true.

The promise is gathering cobwebs, as so many other promises that Malacañang so easily made in the past.

—MRS. TRINIDAD ESTURAS PETEZA,
J. P. Rizal Street, Barangay Camambugan,
Daet, Camarines Norte 4600

Flavor of the decade

WE WISH TO COMMENT ON SEN. MAR ROXAS' remarks published in the newspapers, lamenting the “disconnect” between the stock market figures and the actual state of the economy.

We believe that there is a direct connection between the behavior of the stock market and the direction of the economy. The stock market reflects favorable developments and fundamentals that attract long-term investments; if sustained, it increases the demand for labor which eventually leads to higher wages—thus, benefiting the poor.

Investors, whether foreign or local, may change their minds and withdraw their investments if the fundamentals change, leading others to think that they were just “parking” their money. Senator Roxas likened this to the Philippines being the “flavor of the month.” While this is possible, it is also possible that the Philippine stock market can be the “flavor of the year” or the “flavor of the decade” depending on whether the fundamentals are sustained, with all sectors of the economy contributing their respective share to efforts to sustain growth.

The signal we are getting from the stock markets suggests that it is now time for us to close ranks and show the world that the Philippines can indeed be the “flavor of the decade.” We hope people like Senator Roxas will help lead the way in this undertaking.

—GEORGE U. LORENZANA,
Wharton School of Finance '68,
gulorenzana.wharton68@yahoo.com

Feckless government

MALACAÑANG SAYS “KILLING IS NOT THE policy of this government.” The statement mocks the audience and the Filipino people.

If indeed killing is not the policy of the government, then what is it doing about the epidemic of killings sweeping our country? It is not just my younger brother Noli Capulong for whom I infinitely grieve, but also for others whose lives have been snuffed out in senseless and cowardly killings that have been going on for some time now.

If these horrendous murders are not stopped, it simply means that the authorities are in cahoots with the killers. Either that, or they are helpless, or thoroughly feckless, over what is happening. Take your pick. Either way, every murder indicts the government.

—ATTY. EMILIO C. CAPULONG JR.

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Judges shun work over harassment

COTABATO CITY—JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS in Lanao del Sur have not been reporting to their offices for at least a week already in protest of what they said was harassment by politicians.

The Hall of Justice in Marawi City remains open but Marines were manning it.

A prosecutor, who asked not to be named, said they fear for their lives because "parties in lawsuits tend to put the law into their hands."

He cited several examples of harassments received by those working in the justice department in recent days.

These included the May 31 abduction of a court sheriff by gunmen believed to be supporters of a defeated political candidate.

Palao Diamla was seized at gunpoint after a court hearing in Kadingilan, Marawi City. He was freed four days later.

Authorities blamed the Diamla abduction to a defeated vice mayoral candidate.

A month ago, unidentified suspects also tried to blow up the sala of Judge Amer Ibrahim by planting a hand grenade. Judge Ibrahim was to preside on a bitterly-contested mayoralty race of a Lanao del Sur town when the grenade was discovered.

An armed confrontation between supporters of a defeated mayoral candidate and followers of Marantao Mayor Mohammad Abinal also erupted outside the Hall of Justice while Judge Macaundas Hadjirasul was preparing to hear the election case between the two politicians.

Prosecutor Rex Pazaulan told reporters that "an attack on one judge is an attack on all of us in the legal profession."

Pazaulan said they would continue their protest unless their concern for safety had been addressed.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, deputy commander of the military's Southern Command, has directed Marine officials in Lanao del Sur to ensure the safety of court employees and members of the judiciary.

A "no-firearm" policy would soon be imposed in court premises to ensure that all litigants and those working in the justice compound were safe, according to Chief Supt. Akmad Mamalinta, chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police.

Mamalinta and Dolorfino also vowed to initiate dialogues between warring politicians to prevent future violence in the province. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

K9 UNITS inspect the baggage of arriving passengers from Palawan at the South Harbor in Manila as threats of bombing spread from the country's capital to the provinces, including in a remote Cebu town school that created panic. REM ZAMORA

Bomb scare sends Cebu townsfolk to panic

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A BOMB THREAT on a public school in Tuburan, Cebu on Thursday sent children, parents, barangay officials and policemen into panic and caused the suspension of classes.

It started with a rumor circulating in the neighborhood that a bomb was found at the Tuburan Central School in Barangay Siete, Tuburan, about 96.7 km northwest of here.

But when the rumor was passed on, more information had been added on.

According to PO2 Romel Bangcog, of the Tuburan police station, there were people who spread word that the school had been bombed.

This prompted agitated parents to rush to the school to fetch their children, he added.

Even Barangay Siete Chair George Ceniza hurriedly went to the school to look for his wife who was working there and to help the children.

Ceniza said he got the information from two female fish dealers at the public market who went to Barangay Siete.

He said the two women claimed that their source was someone who received a text message about the supposed bomb left at the school.

Ceniza said the town policemen, firemen, soldiers from the 78th Infantry Battalion and policemen from the Regional Mobile Group also rushed to the school.

He saw parents coming in and out of the school to get their children. He even took care of some children who were crying because their parents had not arrived.

Authorities later discovered that the bomb threat was a hoax, said Ceniza. By then, he said the school officials had already suspended classes because all the pupils had gone home.

Senior Supt. Vicente Loot, provincial police director, ordered the Tuburan police to conduct an investigation to determine the source of the rumors.

"We will find out if we can prosecute the source of the information," he added.

Loot said it was understandable that the rumor quickly spread because in the towns, most of the people did not know how to handle a bomb threat.

Board move on Japan firm exec 'timely, necessary'

DINALUPIHAN, BATAAN—AN official here said the provincial board's recent withdrawal of a resolution declaring an executive of a Japanese firm building the P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) as persona non grata was "timely and necessary."

Vice Mayor Leonardo Cruz, in a statement, said political tension has built up among local and provincial officials following the April 12 resolution that declared Kazuhico Chabayashi, project manager of Obayashi Corp. in charge of the Bataan segment of the ongoing SCTEX, persona non grata.

The resolution was prompted by Chabayashi's alleged defiance of a request from the provincial government to report on the source of filling materials for the project and to pay local taxes.

But in another resolution issued on June 5, the board said the Obayashi Corp. did not violate any order.

Cruz said officials and residents of Dinalupihan and Hermosa, the towns where the SCTEX segment would be built, saw the issue as "counter-productive."

In a letter to the Bases Conversion Development Authority last month, Dinalupihan Mayor Joel Jaime Payumo and Hermosa Mayor Efren Cruz said a change in management personnel of Obayashi Corp. might delay the project. *With reports from Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Zambo village finds peace for war on illegal fishing

RICH IN MARINE RESOURCES, THE COASTAL barangay of Combo in Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur should have been a model community for development.

That never happened because, for the past 11 years, four local leaders and their families have been locked in a bitter conflict fueled by political, as well as family, differences.

According to a news release from the project proponents, the problem became a major concern when the local government decided to address the increasing threats to the municipality's marine resources due to poaching by commercial fishers and destructive fishing practices.

Labangan prepared a coastal management plan which included the establishment of a marine protected are (MPA) in the barangay, with assistance from USAID's Philippine Environmental Governance (EcoGov) Project and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Such a plan needed the support and involvement of the townspeople but, as the technical working group (TWG) for the MPA saw it, any attempt at a community effort would be futile unless the warring clans were reconciled.

Labangan Mayor Abubakar Afdal, Al Haj, initiated peacemaking initiatives and engaged the bickering leaders in a series of dialogues, together with the TWG and the town's council of elders.

The families in conflict, headed by Monie Mamasalagat, Menting Unto, Sukarno Mamasalagat and Osmenia Guimba, realized the urgent need to make peace and agreed to finally set aside their differences.

The reconciliation was formalized with the signing of a peace accord during the public consultations on the establishment of the barangay's MPA on May 11, 2006.

The activity gave community members the opportunity to discuss provisions of the ordinance governing the establishment of their marine protected area.

The four local leaders committed their full support for the undertaking.

Echoing the sentiments of the residents, Kagawad Motingting Tinggalong said, "our barangay has been left behind for many years now."

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US to import 1,000 kg of Kalinga 'unoy' rice

TABUK, KALINGA—AT LEAST 1,000 kilograms of Kalinga's *unoy* organic rice will be exported to the United States this month through a private marketing firm tapped by the local government here, an agriculture official said.

Gilbert Cawis, Tabuk municipal agriculturist, said the *unoy*, an aromatic rice grown and consumed in the upland villages of Kalinga, has been attracting the foreign market since last year through the efforts of the Revitalized Indigenous Cordillera Entrepreneur Inc. (Rice).

Members of the Kalinga Organic Unoy Rice Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Inc., based in Barangay Bulanao, provided the harvest that would comprise the first shipment on June 18.

The cooperative's 201 members were to harvest 25 kg each to meet the 5,025 kg quota for shipment this year, said Felicitas Balmores, coordinator for the *unoy* rice growing.

Balmores said the cooperative is preparing 2,500 kg of *unoy* for the second shipment in October.

She said the town government has established an *unoy* rice demonstration farm in the village of Agbannawag to boost harvest.

Unoy growing, she said, is dependent on rainfall so farmers have limited harvests in a year. Farmers do not use fertilizer and pesticides to grow *unoy*, she said.

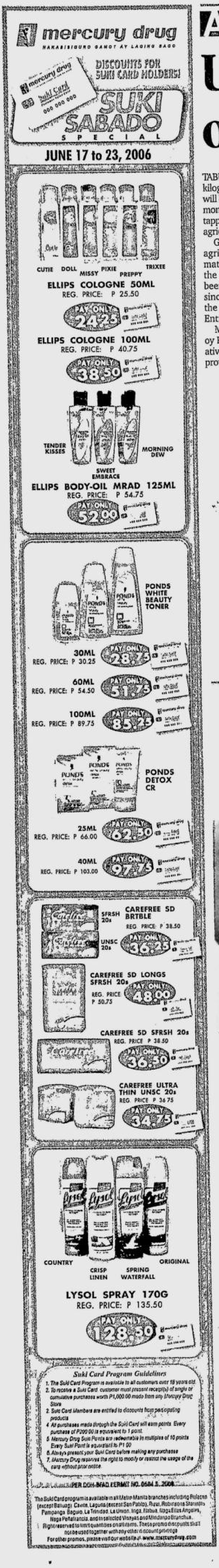
Mayor Camilo Lammawin Jr. said the shipment was approved after the cooperative and the local government sent at least 18 varieties of *unoy* rice for testing in the States.

Only two varieties, the *inowoyan* and *mimis*, passed the standard of an international rice market based in Montana.

Records from the town's agriculture office said the *inowoyan* variety could yield 65 cavans of *palay* in a 1.5-hectare farm while the *mimis* variety could fetch up to 30 cavans in a hectare.

These varieties are raised in the villages of Nambucayan and Magnao in upper Tabuk. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

"UNOY" rice pounding is never fun, this Kalinga man probably thinks as he uses his mortar in a pounding contest in Tabuk, Kalinga. VILLAMOR VISAYA JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU



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INQUIRER Visayas
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Energy Village rises from disaster

By Vicente S. Labro
Liloan, Southern Leyte

AT LEAST 100 houses for victims of the Guinsaugon landslide, funded by the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce through Gawad Kalinga, start taking shape. VICENTE LABRO

FIVE DAYS BEFORE A HUGE CHUNK OF A mountain fell and covered the entire village of Guinsaugon with mud and boulders in February, residents of Barangays Malangsa and Catig in Liloan, Southern Leyte were already fleeing from disaster and crying out for help.

Now, the people wear smiles on their faces. Some corporate executives from the energy sector have pooled their resources to help rebuild their lives.

Bulldozers, graders and dump trucks are now making roads and shaping the land, while volunteers are busy building 50 duplex units for 100 evacuee-families in a 3.5-hectare resettlement area in Barangay Fatima, also in Liloan. The housing project is expected to be finished in three to four months.

The evacuees from Malangsa will also have health and livelihood assistance centers, and a basketball court, among other facilities.

"We'll not build just houses but homes. We are not relocating a barrio but a community, for the greatest damage that the calamity brought was the disruption of the normal pacing that we set on our journey through life," Mayor Marlo Maamo told the beneficiaries during the ceremonial brick-laying and project blessing.

The evacuees from Catig are to be relocated soon to another area, just 50 meters away. Another group is sponsoring the project.

Danger zones

Malangsa and Catig have been declared permanent danger zones and their people will be staying permanently in the relocation sites.

They would never forget that fateful day of Feb. 12, when a landslide hit Sitio Agas-Agas, Barangay Kahupian in Sogod town, killing seven people.

About 2,500 residents from San Francisco, a neighboring town of Liloan, evacuated to safe grounds as floodwaters kept rising. In Liloan, some 400 people from Malangsa and Catig were moved to the town proper.

Five days later, another landslide wiped out Guinsaugon in St. Bernard town, 25 km from Liloan. More than 1,000 people were killed.

Gov. Rosette Y. Lerias said her first call for assistance was not for Guinsaugon but for Malangsa and Catig.

She recalled that on Feb. 12, she received a text message that read: "Please send us a Philippine Navy boat or else we would be buried alive."

At that time, Lerias said, the villages were "caught between the devil and the deep blue sea."

"The mountain had been eroded; there were big waves at sea," she said in Filipino. "The stronger villagers walked out to seek help, but the elders, children and women were left behind."

She said she immediately called up the National Disaster Coordinating Council, which dispatched a Navy boat to the two villages.

That night, members of the Southern Leyte Emergency Rescue Team and the local Philippine National Red Cross arrived, together with soldiers from the 43rd Infantry Battalion and policemen.

Malangsa and Catig were already inaccessible by land due to the landslides. The evacuees, most of them muddied, were transported by boat to the town proper.

On Dec. 19, 2003, Liloan was hit by torrents of mud after six days of heavy rain.

In Malangsa, the flood swept several houses and killed a number of people. Several other villages in Liloan, San Francisco and San Ricardo towns, all on Panaon Island, were hit by flash floods and mudflow. More than 150 persons died.

In the February disaster, many individuals, groups and companies immediately sent relief goods to Southern Leyte.

"With the overwhelming support from this loose consortium of [energy] companies, we found it necessary to look beyond relief. We saw the need to optimize the resources we have and provide a sustainable solution to the plight of the displaced families," said Nicasio Alcantara, chair of Petron Corp.

Rebuilding community

He said help to rebuild Southern Leyte would mean rebuilding a community.

With Gawad Kalinga as partner, together with the provincial and municipal governments, they created the Tulong Kapwa-GK Energy Village in Liloan, he said.

The housing project "represents the wholehearted response of business, government and civil society to make collective action work in turning tragedy into triumph," Alcantara said.

Rallied by the Department of Energy, the companies were able to collect an initial donation of P14.994 million. The amount was allotted for the construction of 100 houses (P6 million), land acquisition and site development (P1.2 million), livelihood program (P1 million), school program (P6.3 million), and the construction of a day care and multipurpose hall (P500,000).

Two more firms donated P1.5 million during the recent gathering in Fatima.

The donors included Petron, Transco, China National Offshore Oil Co., Kepco, Marubeni Corp., Manila Economic and Cultural Office, Nido Petroleum Philippines Pty. Ltd., Philippine Business for Social Progress, Philippine Electricity Market Corp., Salcon Power Corp., San Roque Power Corp., Mirant Foundation and California Energy.

The Petron Foundation will serve as depository for all donations received for the housing project, while PNOC-EDC will provide administrative and logistical support. Through its volunteers, GK will undertake the construction of the houses.

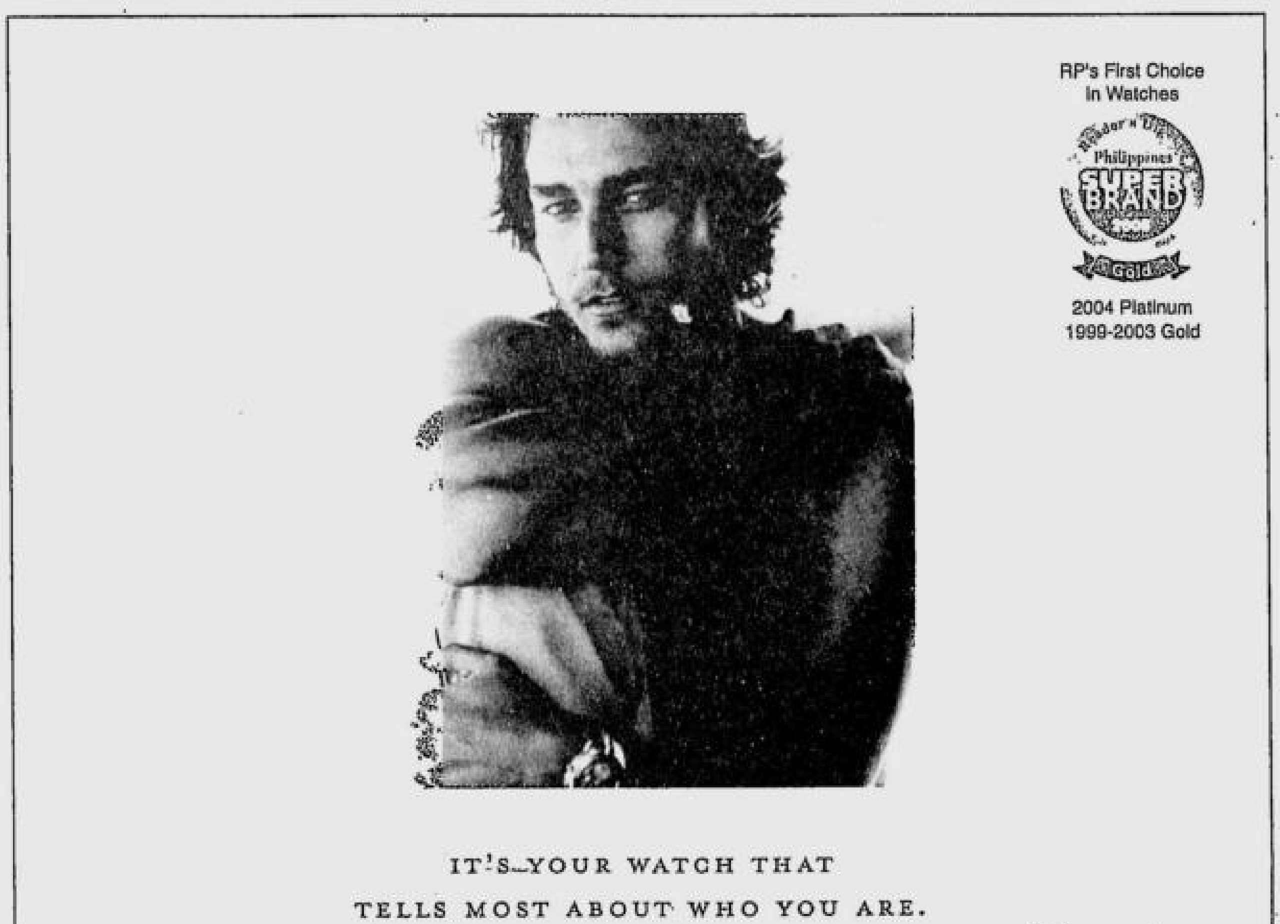
Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla told the beneficiaries that his group did not have to convince the private sector to help the disaster victims. They volunteered to give donations, he said.

"So, initially, what was a picture of tragedy was slowly transformed into what we are now painting, which is a picture of thanksgiving," Lotilla said. But he quickly added: "I think we are painting a larger picture—it is a picture of hope."

As a way of thanking their benefactors, Malangsa barangay chair Rogelio Sikad presented Lotilla with a gold-covered stone that was found in their village to symbolize the donors' "heart of gold."

Nestor Bulan, a leader of the Mamanwa tribe in Southern Leyte, and some of his followers came from neighboring San Francisco to offer their labor and other services for the project.

ORPHANS of the Guinsaugon tragedy showcase their artworks as part of the therapy program held last May 15-19 by the CCP Outreach Division. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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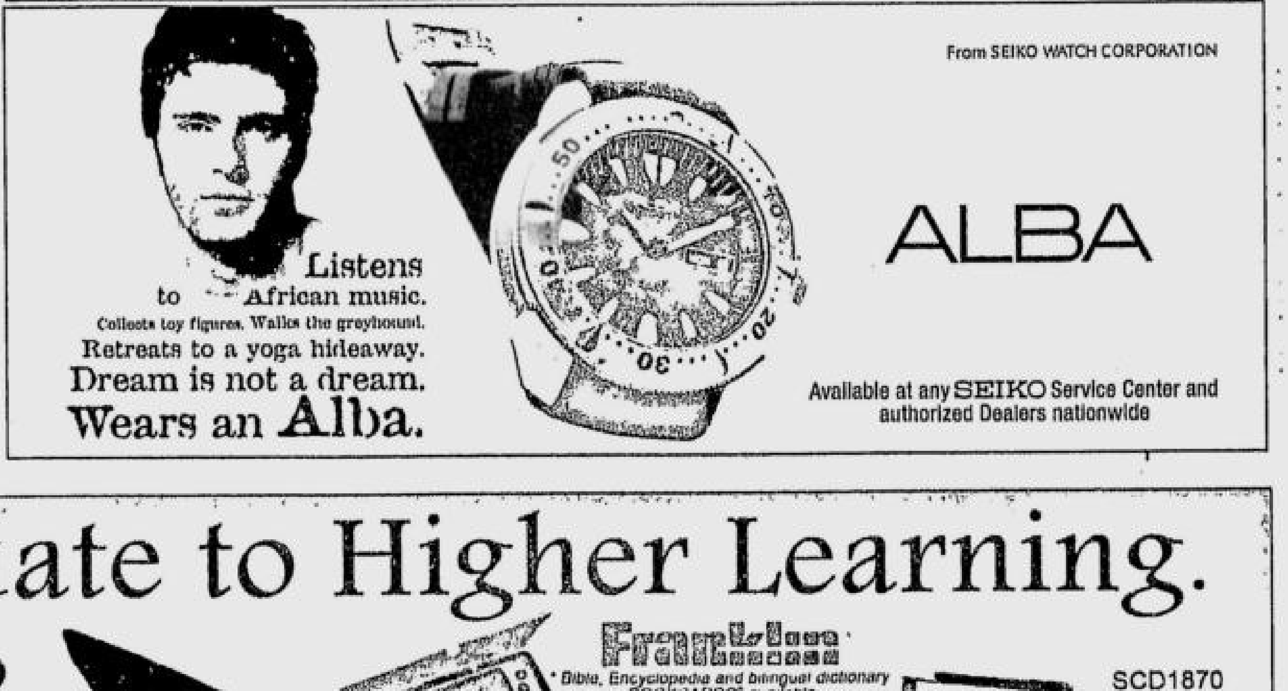

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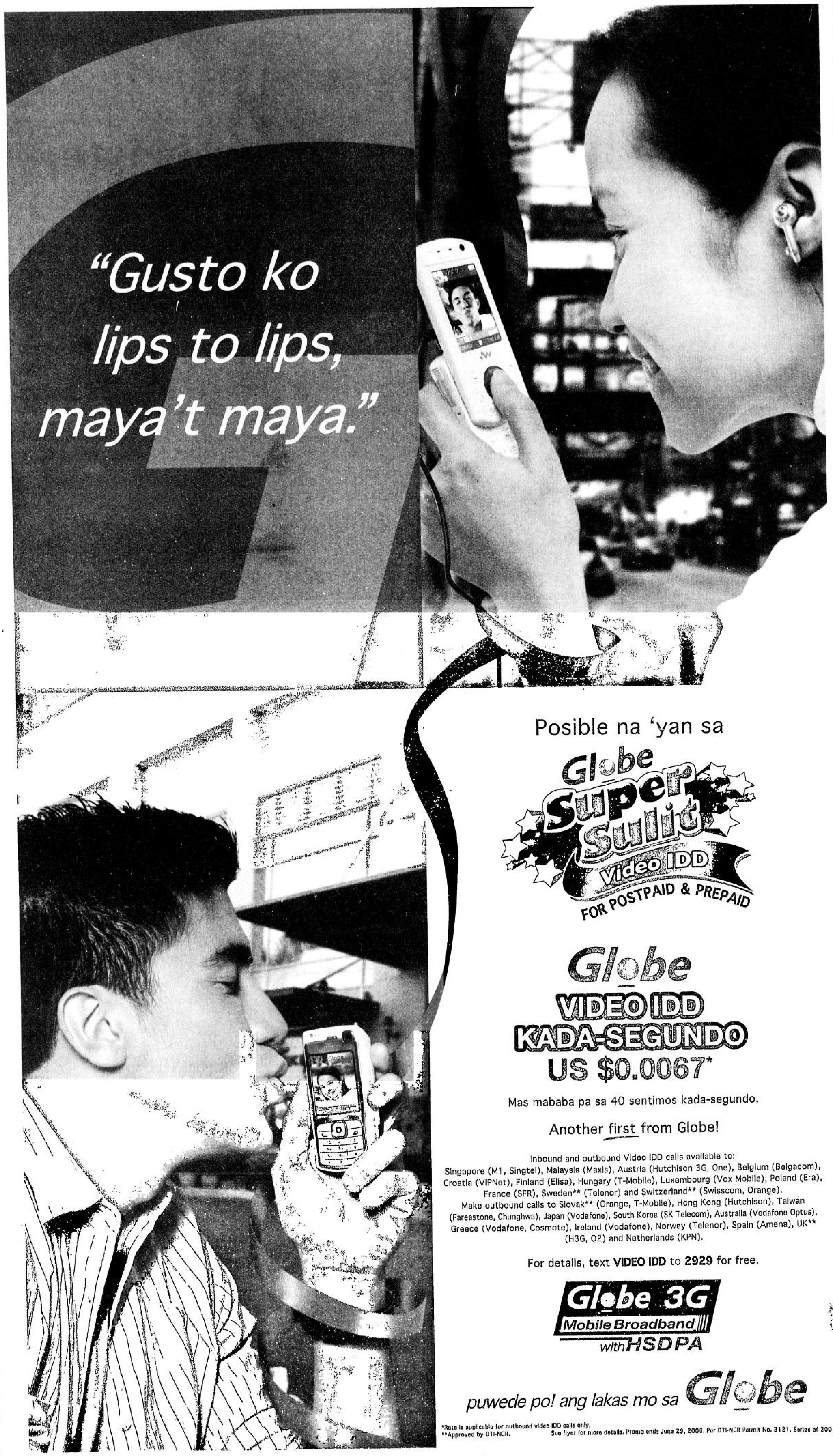

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Smokey Mountain site of new urban reforestation project

Tree planting, watershed rehab in the works

By Blanche S. Rivera

SMOKEY Mountain, a dump in Tondo that gained notoriety as a symbol of poverty and neglect before it was closed down in 1994, is the center of a grand plan to reforest a once barren and foul-smelling wasteland. LYN RILLON

A GREEN BELT IN SMOKEY MOUNTAIN.

The former mountain of trash has been selected as one of five reforestation sites in Metro Manila for the Green Philippines project to be launched by the government.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) have signed an agreement to jointly develop the area in Tondo, Manila, as a site for an urban greening project.

PWPA chair Tony Olizon said the group would plant mahogany, acacia and other durable trees around the tenement houses and the nature-inspired ecological church being built by the Parish of the Risen Christ.

"Imagine Greenbelt in Makati. We want to create something like that around the church but bigger," Olizon said.

The PWPA has talked with residents of Smokey Mountain to encourage them to help in the reforestation efforts and to clean up a creek near the tenement buildings for planting.

"We saw that there were a lot of poor people residing in the area and it was too hot precisely because there were no trees. We want to improve the living conditions of people in our own small way," Olizon said in a phone interview.

Five Metro Manila sites and three provinces were chosen as centers for urban greening, watershed rehabilitation, community forestry and industrial tree plantation under Green Philippines. The four other Metro sites, however, had not yet been identified.

New chapter

"This heralds a new chapter of the PWPA's presence in the country's wood industry because this undertaking puts the association at the forefront of the government's reforestation program," Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said in a statement.

The PWPA, which has bucked proposals by environmental groups for a total log ban because of their wood requirement, will launch the project later this month.

The PWPA will also reforest the shoreline of Taal Lake and the tributaries of the San Juan River running through towns in Batangas and Bataan. It will establish a tree plantation in Morong, Bataan for fuel wood, fruit trees and other species that can serve as a livelihood source for the community.

Another model tree plantation will be put up in Sibuco, Zamboanga as a pilot area for a 10,000-hectare tree plantation project to be developed by Sirawal Plywood and Lumber Co.

"This is just going to be a model, we'll ask different cities and municipalities to identify areas for other green belts," Olizon said, referring to its greening of Smokey Mountain.

A dump often used as a symbol of urban decay and poverty in the past decades, Smokey Mountain was closed down on orders of then President Ramos in 1994.

A year later, an initial batch of 88 families were resettled in the area, living in temporary homes made of concrete, plywood and galvanized iron roofs. A plan to build high-rise living quarters to replace temporary homes for the community, largely made of scavengers who sell scrap and trash for recycling, was later suspended because of changes in the original agreement between the government and the building contractor.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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- **Taguig trash queen's prize to fund clean and green projects** /A18
- **Cameraphones used to monitor would-be robbery victims at LRT, MRT** /A18

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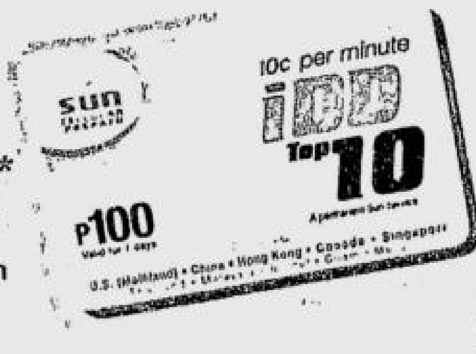

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Taguig City principals, mayor in new controversy

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Ginang Kalikasan

PARA PATI BARANGAY-BEAUTY!

CONCHITA Monsuela has bested 22 other contenders for the Ginang Kalikasan 2006 title, a beauty contest launched by the Taguig City government where contestants were judged not by their looks, but by the amount of garbage they had collected. Monsuela, of Barangay Western Bicutan, was adjudged the winner after she collected and sold more than P200,000 worth of recyclable materials. The bigger part of her prize money will fund clean and green projects in Taguig, according to the office of Mayor Freddie Tinga. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Girl needs help

THIRTEEN-year-old Joy Yulo, who has been diagnosed with aplatic anemia, is in need of financial help. She was previously diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis and blood dyscrasia which require her to undergo blood transfusions. Her father, Roberto, a popcorn vendor, is appealing to kind-hearted people to help defray her medical expenses at the Philippine General Hospital which total P11,760 monthly. Donors may contact Roberto at 7283805 or cell phone no. 0918-2417851. Donations may be also sent to the City State Savings Bank through Account no. 004-22-001147-1.

By Alcuin Papa and Jocelyn R. Uy

A DAY AFTER AN EDUCATION official revoked the order suspending seven principals in Taguig City, another controversy cropped up, this time, involving Mayor Freddie Tinga.

Domingo Alidon, president of the Department of Education (DepEd) Employees' Union, told the INQUIRER yesterday that the principals were asked to sign a "pledge of allegiance" to Tinga.

Affixing their signatures would mean that the principals were supportive of Tinga's projects. In return, they would receive an allowance from the city government, Alidon said.

"But the teachers have principles so they didn't sign it," he added.

Alidon warned politicians in the city not to involve teachers in politics or the union would file charges against them.

A city government official, however, denied Alidon's allegations.

"That's a very funny accusation. It's baseless and untrue, a mere figment of the imagination. We vehemently deny that there is any shade of truth to that," Tess Umali, the city's executive assistant for education, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

She added that City Hall never asked the principals to sign anything in exchange for money.

Ana Santos, public information officer, also told the INQUIRER that the mayor does not meddle in the affairs of the DepEd division office.

"He was not even aware of the suspension of any erring principal," Santos said.

Last Tuesday, Taguig Assistant Division Supt. Dr. Evelyn Villoria issued a memorandum ordering the suspension of seven principals in the city, without giving any reason.

Suspended were Dr. Eleonor Abisado of the Taguig National High School, Delfin Hernandez of the Bagumbayan National High School, Noemi Bayle of the Taguig Science High School, George Tizon of the Rene Cayetano Science and Technical High School, Guia de la Cruz of the Tipas National High School and two other unidentified principals.

Villoria's order, however, was declared void on Thursday by DepEd Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs Franklin Sunga. According to the DepEd official, Villoria does not have the power to suspend principals.

Sunga also announced the appointment of former Caloocan Assistant Division Supt. Amancio Villamejor as officer in charge of the Taguig Division.

Bowling champion Paolo Valdez mauled at Alabang mall

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IT WAS PROBABLY THE ONLY time in his life that he felt like a bowling pin, receiving blow after blow from one fast moving ball. Or in this case, more than 10.

Paolo Valdez, 33, one of the country's bowling champions, sustained bruises and multiple wounds all over his body after he was slapped, punched and hit over by the head with a bottle by more than 10 stall holders on Thursday night.

The incident, said the police, happened on the second floor of the Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa at around 8:15 p.m.

According to SPO2 Angel Nieves, Valdez and his wife, Stephanie, had gone to a cell phone shop, Nezrim Telecom, to return a unit which they said was defective.

However, the shop owner, Mauyaq Ellas, reportedly refused to take the cell phone back.

He offered instead to repair it for P1,500, Nieves said in his report.

PAOLO Valdez with bowling icon Bong Coo PDI PHOTO

Refund asked

Valdez, however, refused Ellas' offer and insisted that the trader refund his money.

As they argued, Ellas and neighboring stallholders began hitting him, probably to defend their colleague.

They only stopped their attack after a mall security officer, Ronald Condo, stepped in to intervene.

Attempted homicide and slight physical injuries were filed in the city prosecutor's office yesterday against Ellas, who, at press time was being held at the police headquarters.

Ten other "John Does" were also included in the complaint.

Valdez was the first Filipino to bag the prestigious men's masters gold medal in the 1989 Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games at age 16.

He was also a two-time gold medalist in the 1993 SEA Games.

Please leave out the innocent

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

LAST THURSDAY, CRISTY DAILO, my co-anchor in the program, "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo," on dwIZ radio came running out of the office. She was crying.

A white paper circulated that day, meant to destroy the reputation of the Tulfo brothers—Raffy, Erwin, Ben and myself—hit other innocent people, as well. One of them was Cristy.

The white paper linked her to me, another female broadcaster to Erwin, and still another to Raffy.

Cristy, who's married, couldn't stand what was written in the white paper. I wouldn't mention what was in it. It was so gross.

I admit—I can't speak for my brothers—that, well, I'm "*pilyo sa chicks*" but I've never had any relationship with my subordinates or officemates. I consider them family.

Oh, for crying out loud, the white paper even mentioned the supposed size of a part of my anatomy!

I can't tell the source of the white paper, but I can guess. It probably came from a guy who I know once had a relationship with an employee of his.

I know this guy very well; he's a dirty player. He once hired a public relations firm to throw dirt at his political and personal enemies.

Why he should deal with "size" is beyond me. He probably got it from one of his girlfriends.

* * *

The white paper has so devastated Cristy she wants to resign from my program. I'm sure it also did the same damage to the other broadcasters mentioned in the white paper.

***Kawawa naman sila.* They were innocent bystanders who were hit by stray "bullets" meant for me.**

On that score, the guy who ordered the white paper to circulate is like a terrorist. He doesn't care if he inflicts collateral damage on others who get in his line of sight in aiming at me.

I am a fair target; I can take what I dish out. I beg him to spare people who are innocent.

* * *

Administration lawmakers who defended President Macapagal-Arroyo from Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's renewed attack on the "Hello Garci" scandal were right: It's already a dead issue.

For this country to move on, leaders should not dig up dirt that had long been buried.

People have forgotten the "Hello Garci" tapes scandal, or whatever one calls it. That means it's not important.

* * *

I invite you to watch "Isumbong mo (Tulfo Brothers)" on RPN 9 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Modesty aside, our staff has received many text messages on our cellular phone hotline praising the public service show.

If you want to make any comments about the show, please send your message to 0906-206-7057.

Camera phones now used by robbers on MRT

By Nancy C. Carvajal

ROBBERS HAVE ALSO GONE high-tech, using cell phones equipped with cameras to spot potential victims.

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Northern Police District director, warned the public yesterday about a syndicate which preys on mass transport commuters like the Light Rail or Metro Rail Transit systems.

"Robbers are now using their cell phone cameras to photograph their would-be victims and pass it on to an accomplice who would stage the holdup," Bataoil said, adding that several victims have complained to the police about the group's activities.

According to Bataoil, one or two members of the syndicate usually position themselves near the ticket booth of the LRT or MRT, looking at people as they take out their wallet.

After spotting a potential victim. the suspects would take a picture of their target and pass it on to an accomplice, he explained.

The spotter would then follow the intended victim inside the train and then call or text or send a photo of the victim to their members on the ground.

When the target gets off the train, one of the robbers would drape his arm around the victim's shoulder while another would get the contents of the victim's bag.

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Saturday June 17, 2006

Sayaw. Drama. Iba.
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC
Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Kids TV	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Wow Mali		Ripley's Believe It or Not							
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Little Big Star		Komiks		Let's Go	Quezon Avenue		TV Patrol World	XXX		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN		Jumanji				AXN Shakedown		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	Ripley's Believe It or Not		Max Exposure (Season I)		Lost (Season II)		Numbers (Season 2)		Supernatural (Season I)	
Cartoon Network	Powerpuff Girls	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Tom & Jerry Show	Pet Alien/Planet Sketch/Camp Lazlo/Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy/ Cow & Chicken/ Pet Alien/Camp Lazlo		The Simpsons		Scooby-Doo & The Reluctant Werewolf			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy (8:45PM)	The Simpsons		Power Rangers Dino Thunder	Gundam Seed		Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021
Cinema One	Ang Tanging Ina				Feng Shui				Hula Mo Huli Ko				The Sarah Balabagan Story				Ang Alamat Ni Julian Makabayan		
Cinemax	Buffalo Soldiers (2:45PM)			The Boys & Girl From County Clare (4:15PM)			Guarding Tess (5:40PM)			Dave (7:15PM)				Into The Sun			Taking Lives (10:35PM)		
CNN		World News	Global Office	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Main Sail	World News	World Sport	World News	Global Office	CNN Future Summit		Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Mastermind	Forensic Files	Bones		Psychic Detectives	Body Of Evidence	Crossing Jordan		Law & Order		Bones		E-Ring		Romeo Must Die			
Disney Channel	Lizzie Mcguire	Totally Spies-Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Buzz on Maggie	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN	NBA Action	Motorsport Asia	U.S. Open Golf Champ								Sportscenter Germany	Germany Tonight	NBA Access w/ Ahmad Rashad	U.S. Open Golf Championship		Sportscenter Week in Review	NBA Action	Motorsport Asia	Sportscenter at the U.S. Open
ETC		Joan Of Arcadia 2		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars 2		The O.C. 3		Beach Girls		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Trading Spouses		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		Showdog Moms & Dads		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Blowout 2		Inside the Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatics	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (4:20PM)		[illegible] (5:20PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos (7:20PM)		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho				Hokus Pokus (10:20PM)		Showbiz Stripped
Hallmark Channel		McLeod's Daughters V		Cactus Kids (4:05PM)			[illegible] Adam (5:40PM)				Strange Relations			Hercules					
HBO	Daylight				Contact					Black Rain				The Ring Two			Carnivale 13: Los Moscos (10:45PM)		Carnivale 14: Alamogordo, NM
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazers	Shaman King	Bucky the Incredible	Jester The Adventurer	Musumi!	The X-Treme Team	Love Hina	Fruits Basket	Lost Universe	Hero TV Theatrix	Babel II	II OVA	Captain Kuppa	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nations Pointkeeper	Auto Review	Getamo		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		Japan Video Topics/ [illegible]		Bitag		Pilipinas Sabong Sports			
JackTV	X-Men	JLU	The Batman	Cheat	Filter	Bottomline		Raw				Distraction	Banzai	Last Comic Standing		South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers
Lifestyle Network	Living Spaces	HGTV Special		Sheila Bridges: Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine Andrea Immer	Inside Dish	My Country, My Kitchen	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Merge		Style Star	I Do Diaries		E! Extra: Women Of [illegible]	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits			The 2006 MTV Asia Awards Main Show					Boiling Points	Wildboyz		MTV Live Image		[illegible] Pink in New York City	MTV Hits	Brand New	MTV Hits	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic		The Living Edens: Costa Rica Land of Pure Life		Wild Rio		Planet Football World Cup Class	Planet Football World Cup Class	Animals Like US		Built for the Kill: Killer Canines		The Living Edens: Tasmania Land of The Devils		Dangerous [illegible] Survival of The Marked		Dangerous [illegible] Missing Link		No Borders: Voices From Heaven	
NBN		[illegible] Alas-Tres		[illegible] Sports Atbp.		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Youth Voice-Debate		[illegible] Dialogue W/ GSIS Pres & GM		Info Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Kruzada Kontra Krimen	
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	The Fairly Odd Parents & Just For Kicks-Now Show	Catscratch	Avatar: Legend Of Aang	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That Just For Kicks - Now Show	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Girls in Love	The Amanda Show	The Brothers Garcia	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			[illegible] Hoodlum 2				Pangako				Imagine Regine				Sib Ako Sa 'Yo				Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Kaleido Star		Candies		Fans Kita		[illegible] Robot		Day Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupou TV	
RPN 9		Global Window		Biyaheng Langit	Global Window	Man & Machine				Blind Justice		CSI Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse					
SBN 21								Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherd's Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports					Volleyball 2006 [illegible] Volley Masters				GWS 24-2006	World Tenpin Masters ep 3		[illegible] Super Challenge			Superfights [illegible]				NBA Action
Sports Plus				FIFA World Cup '06 Argentina Vs. Serbia & Montenegro						World Poker Tour 2				UFC Back2Back [illegible]				Bank of America Champ Highlights	
Star Movies			Cisco Action (3:25PM)			Erin Brockovich (5:15PM)					My Favorite Martian			White Noise			Darkness (10:40PM)		
Star World		Third Watch/ Love Asia		Miami Vice		Wild Card		Less Than Perfect	The Drew Carey Show	Gillette 2006 Fifa World Cup		TNA Xplosion		World's Most Amazing Videos		Enterprise		The Simpsons	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Survivor Panama Exile Island	Pinoy Big Brother		7th Heaven (8:10PM)			Studio 23 Presents				

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US Catholics to recite a changed Mass

ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS IN THE United States voted Thursday to change the wording of many of the prayers and blessings that Catholics have recited at daily Mass for more than 35 years, yielding to Vatican pressure for an English translation that is closer to the original Latin.

The bishops, meeting in Los Angeles, voted 173-29 to accept many of the changes to the Mass, ending a 10-year struggle that many English-speaking Catholics had dubbed "the liturgy wars."

Passage required a two-thirds vote.

Some changes are minor, but in other cases Catholics will have to learn longer and more awkward versions of familiar prayers. For example, instead of saying, "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you," in the prayer before Communion, they will say, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof."

The reason for the change is a Vatican directive issued in 2001 under Pope John Paul II that demanded closer adherence to the Latin text. But some bishops in the English-speaking world were indignant at what they saw as a Vatican move to curtail the autonomy of each nation's bishops to translate liturgical texts according to local tastes and needs.

The new translation is likely to please those traditionalists who longed for an English version more faithful to the Latin in use before the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. But it may upset Catholics who have committed the current prayer book to heart and to memory and who took comfort in its more conversational cadences.

"This translation will affect the worship life of every Catholic in the United States and beyond," said Bishop Donald W. Trautman of Erie, Pa., chairman of the bishops Committee on the Liturgy and a vocal critic of the new translation who helped stir opposition to it.

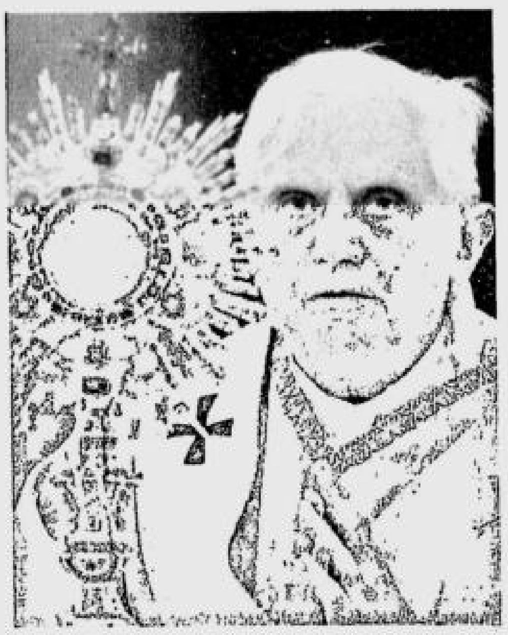
The translation must go to the Vatican and Pope Benedict XVI for final approval. It could still take years until the new text is published and put into use in American churches.

The bishops rejected about 60 of the changes proposed by the International Committee on English in the Liturgy, the panel of bishops from 11 English-speaking countries that prepared the translation.

The Rev. Lawrence J. Madden, director of the Georgetown Center for Liturgy in Washington, said: "In hewing to the Latin more closely, it's making some of the English awkward. It isn't the English we speak. It's becoming more sacred English, rather than vernacular English."

Madden said: "That's one of the reasons why a large number of the bishops up to this point have been opposed to the translation, because they're afraid this is going to distance the liturgy from the people."

The Rev. Robert J. Silva, president of the National Federation of Priests Councils, said of the priests he represents: "We're not real anxious to have changes. There's real concern because a lot of us are saying, is this really a theological and Biblical issue? Is it really to upgrade the language, or is this something that's a little more ideological?" *NYT*



POPE Benedict XVI celebrating the feast of Corpus Christi in Rome, June 15. AFP

US airlines hike fares

ADD THIS TO THE GROWING LIST OF headaches for travelers: Fares keep rising.

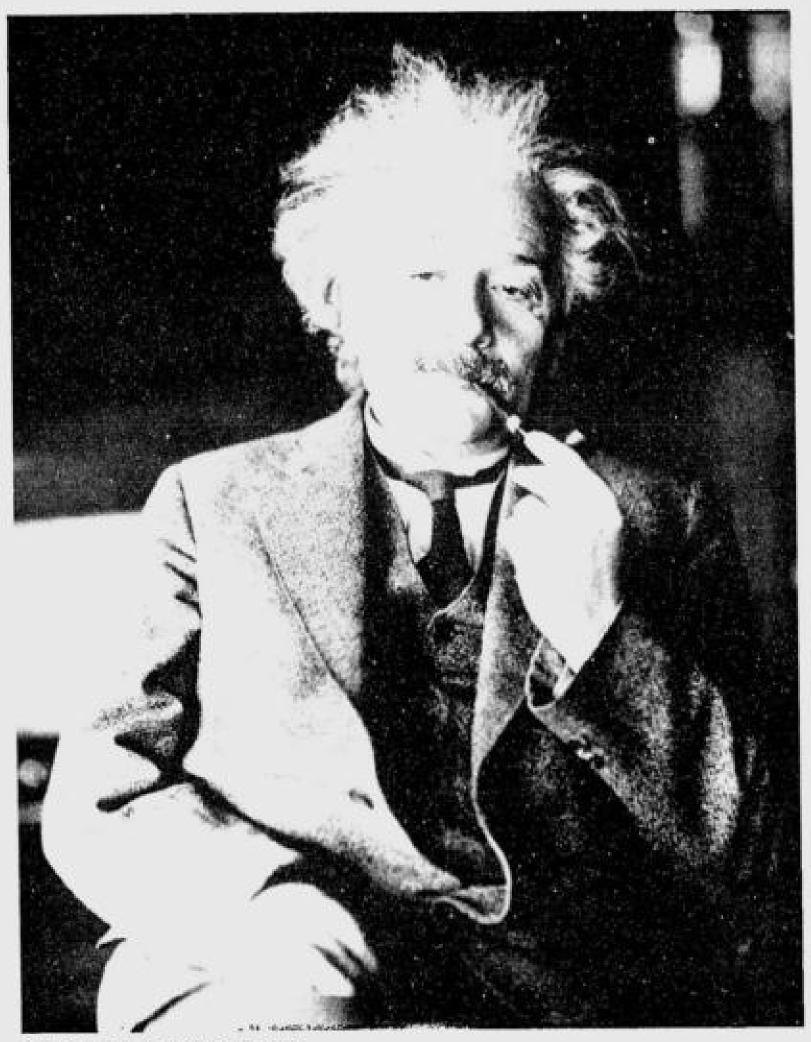
Most of the nation's largest airlines said Thursday they would raise prices for many last-minute tickets.

If the fare hike holds, it will be further evidence that the airlines are taking advantage of a situation that is good for them and bad for consumers—demand for travel is growing with the economy, yet the number of seats remains limited, giving the airlines power to push up fares.

On Thursday, American Airlines, United Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Continental Airlines and US Airways followed Delta Air Lines' move to increase one-way walk-up fares, which are typically bought by business travelers, by $50.

Airlines generally raise fares in smaller increments. So even if some airlines break from the pack and pull back somewhat from the increase, fares on many routes could end up higher, extending a run of rising ticket prices.

This latest increase will affect some of the most expensive flights, which have already jumped 21 percent in the last year, according to Harrell Associates, an airline data-tracking firm. With the $50 increase, the average last-minute one-way ticket, which last week cost $478, will likely jump another $38. *NYT*



STILL MAKING HAY

Legendary physicist Dr. Albert Einstein, author of the theory of relativity, is shown in this undated photo. Even in the afterlife, some celebrities remain big-time moneymakers. Einstein, along with the likes of Elvis Presley, Kurt Cobain, Andy Warhol and Marilyn Monroe, continues to earn enviable incomes from the grave, according to Forbes magazine. AP

S. African whites urged to take stock as Soweto uprising marked

JOHANNESBURG—SOUTH AFRICA ON FRIday marked the 30th anniversary of the Soweto uprising, one of the bloodiest chapters of apartheid, amid renewed debate over whether whites should own up to the atrocities of the former regime.

Hundreds of black youths died at the hands of police during protests against the enforced use of Afrikaans in schools that began on June 16, 1976, in the Johannesburg township of Soweto.

The protests marked a turning point in the anti-apartheid struggle and the brutal police response set international public opinion against the white regime.

The 30th anniversary of the 1976 uprising is being celebrated in the wake of a firestorm touched off by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who remarked in late April that whites had not shown enough gratitude for the magnanimity shown by blacks.

His comments drew a strong response from both sides of the racial divide, setting off a deluge of opinion pieces, letters from incensed newspaper readers and phone calls to radio talk shows, confirming that Tutu had struck a raw nerve.

Nkosinathi Biko, son of anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko, said that as the nation marked 30 years since the Soweto uprising, white South Africans should take responsibility for the sins of apartheid.

"White South Africans must reckon with history for what it is and not for what they wish it to have been," Biko wrote in a newspaper commentary.

Biko, who was 6 years old when his father died in detention in 1977 after being tortured by security police, told AFP that the new generation of black South Africans might not be as gracious as their contemporaries.

"If Bishop Tutu, who is the embodiment of reconciliation, is making these kinds of statements, should we not be concerned that there may be a growing intolerance?" said Biko.

"We hear a lot of community voices that say 'we are well beyond the honeymoon period'," said Biko, the executive director of the Steve Biko Foundation, which runs programs to develop youth leadership.

The debate over whether whites should atone for the sins of apartheid is a recurring one in South Africa, which has won praise for its peaceful transition to black majority rule since 1994.

A campaign spearheaded in 2000 by former African National Congress (ANC) member of parliament Carl Niehaus to get prominent whites to sign a statement apologizing for apartheid fell flat.

Niehaus, who served as South Africa's ambassador to the Netherlands, said whites had failed to recognize that they were the "benefactors of apartheid" and "continue to benefit to this day."

"We don't deal with it properly," said Niehaus, an Afrikaner. "We seem to want to forget too quickly the damages of apartheid that have been inflicted."

"The 30th anniversary is an opportunity to go back to the white community and say 'A large number of young people were shot and killed for no other reason than for the fact that they did not want to live in a society where they were second-class citizens,'" Niehaus told AFP. *AFP*

Special fish to fight mosquitoes

NEW ORLEANS—IN A LARGE ABOVE-ground pool here, entomologists are breeding front-line mosquito fighters.

Hiding in the fibrous root systems dangling in the brown water, these fighters—hundreds of inch-long, guppy-like minnows—are being raised to be deployed to thousands of festering, flooded-out pools and hot tubs abandoned in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast since Hurricane "Katrina" last August.

Their mission: Devour mosquito larvae and, potentially, prevent the spread of diseases like mosquito-borne encephalitis and the sometimes deadly West Nile virus. In the process, they'll help minimize one of this region's most annoying summer pests.

"They're incredible little fish," said Greg Thompson, a research entomologist for the New Orleans Mosquito and Termite Control Board, as he sprinkled flakes of fish food into the harvesting pool.

The fish have been used to control mosquito populations since the 1930s, but this post-Katrina offensive marks the first time they've been harvested by the thousands for deposit into pools that have become scummy breeding tanks for mosquito larvae.

The abundance of standing water and hot summer temperatures can create a mosquito-breeding haven. And with as many as 6,000 abandoned pools in New Orleans alone, mosquito experts say the tiny fish are their biggest allies in protecting the Gulf Coast from a nasty mosquito infestation.

"Just a bucket of water can breed thousands of mosquitoes," said Ashley Gray, a college student interning with the mosquito control board this summer.

The mosquito fish, native to this region and probably the world's most effective biological mosquito control agent, are surface-breathers and capable of surviving in polluted waters with low oxygen levels. Their primary food source is mosquito larvae, though they also can live off algae.

Fast reproducers, one female can give live birth to up to 100 babies every 30 days or so. Each can gobble as many as 100 mosquito larvae a day. *AP*

Now, Ahmadinejad says nuke incentive offer a 'step forward'

SHANGHAI—IRANIAN PRESIDENT Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Friday the international incentive offer to curtail his nation's nuclear program was a "step forward" that would be carefully considered.

"We regard the offer of a package as a step forward and I have instructed my colleagues to carefully consider it," Ahmadinejad, in China for the leaders' summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, told a press conference.

"We will give a response in due time in line with the international interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Ahmadinejad was commenting on the offer—put forward this month by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany—of incentives to Tehran if it agreed to suspend uranium enrichment.

Uranium enrichment makes nuclear reactor fuel but also atom bomb material.

The United States has led international warnings that Iran intends to build a nuclear weapons program.

Tehran insists its nuclear program is only for energy purposes and that it has a right to enrich uranium.

"We are not seeking to develop nuclear weapons," Ahmadinejad reiterated Friday.

He then sought to focus attention on the fact the United States dropped atomic bombs in Japan at the end of World War II, becoming the first and only nation to use nuclear weapons.

"Pay attention to the fact that Hiroshima is only a few hundred kilometers away," he said, referring to one of the Japanese cities that was bombed.

"We believe that war-minded and selfish nations must correct their behavior if they want to have a place in the future world."

Iran has previously given mixed signals over whether it will accept the incentive offer, made by the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany to Tehran on June 6.

Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, said Thursday the international community's "carrot-and-stick" policy over Iran's nuclear program was counterproductive.

"Humiliation and the use of language of threat of referring the nuclear dossier to the UN Security Council ... have had a serious impact on mutual trust and confidence on parties involved and thus the process of negotiations," he said.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also said Thursday his country would not bow to pressure over its atomic program, implicitly rejecting the calls to suspend enrichment.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will not bend to these pressures. The continuation of this scientific progress is its fundamental and basic right," Iranian state television quoted Khamenei as saying.

The incentives package includes the lifting of some US trade sanctions and international support for the "building of new light water reactors in Iran," according to a copy of the proposal shown to AFP. *AFP*

AHMADINEJAD in Shanghai June 16. REUTERS

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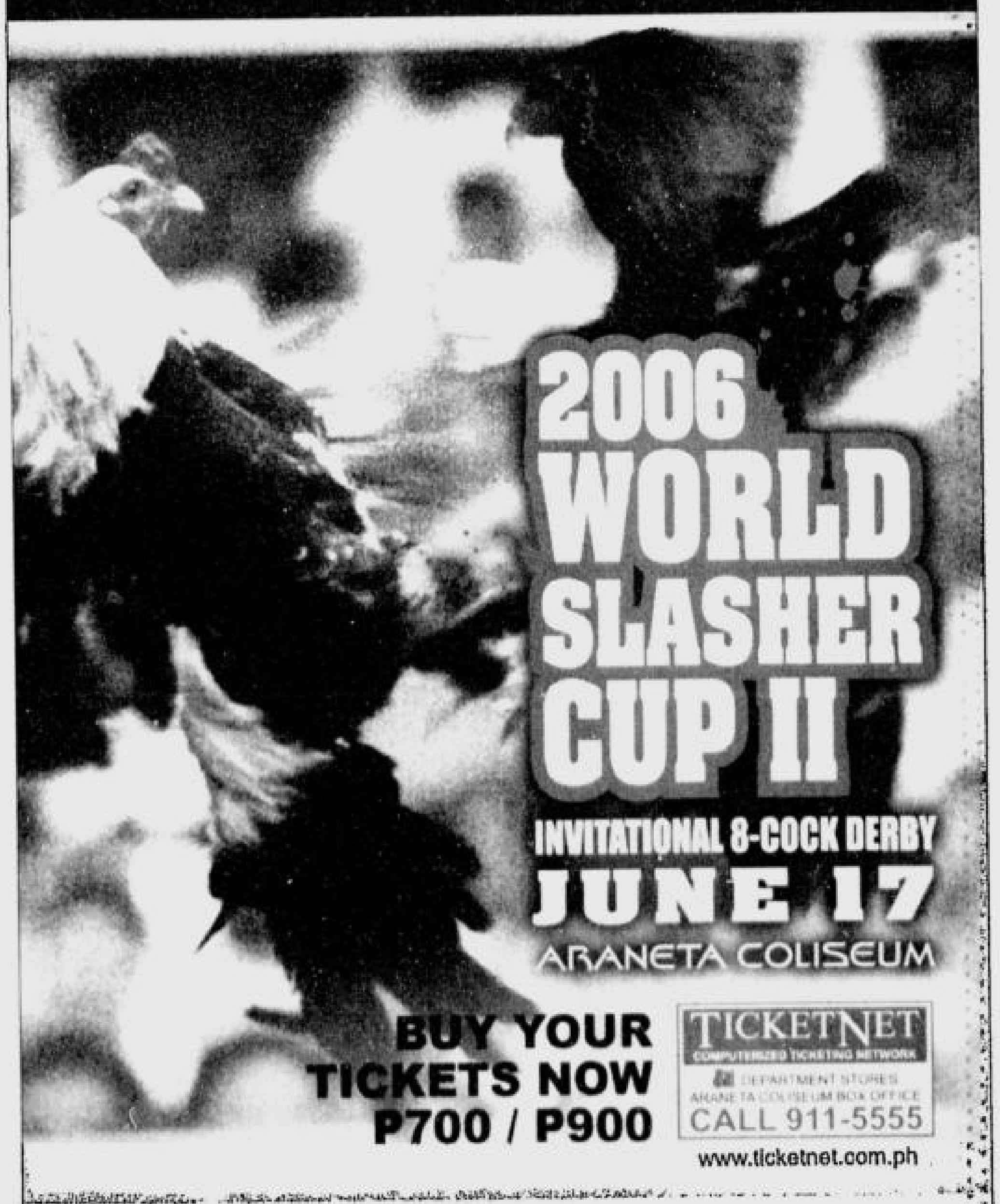
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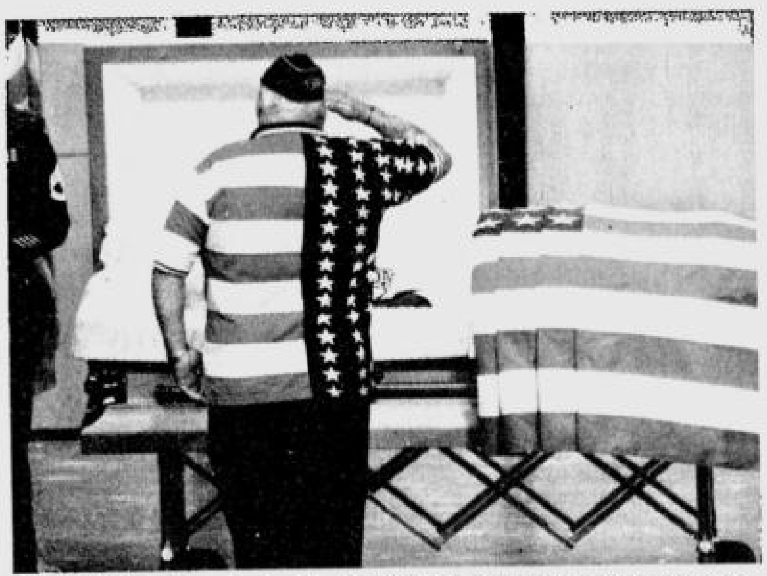
US military deaths in Iraq hit 2,500



MOURNER salutes the body of Staff Sgt. Richard A. Blakley, killed in action in Iraq, at his funeral June 15 in Avon, Ind. AP

WASHINGTON—AMERICAN DEATHS SINCE THE invasion of Iraq have reached 2,500, marking a grim milestone in the wake of recent events that President George W. Bush hopes will reverse the war's unpopularity at home.

The latest death was announced as Congress was launching a symbolic election-year debate over the war, with Republicans rallying against calls by some Democrats to set a timetable for the withdrawal of US troops.

The Pentagon provided no details on the nature of the 2,500th death. Nevertheless, reaching the new marker underscored the continuing violence in Iraq just after an upbeat Bush returned from a surprise visit to Baghdad determined that the tide was beginning to turn.

"It's a number," White House press secretary Tony Snow told reporters at the White House.

"Any president who goes through a time of war feels very deeply the responsibility for sending men and women into harm's way, feels very deeply the pain that the families feel. This president is no different," he said.

"It's always a sad benchmark, and one of the things the president has said is that these people will not die in vain," Snow added. "... You've got a government now that can help ensure that that is not the case."

The Pentagon releases new casualty figures daily with no fanfare—and scant detail—as defense officials have said that no one death should be highlighted since all losses are equally tragic.

Some members of Congress have been calling for a timetable for the eventual withdrawal of troops from Iraq, of which there are about 127,000.

The United States invaded Iraq in March 2003, in an effort to depose dictator Saddam Hussein, amid now debunked allegations that he had weapons of mass destruction.

According to the Pentagon totals, there have been 1,972 service members killed in action in Iraq, and another 528 died from other non-hostile causes. There also have been 18,490 troops wounded in action, including 8,501 who did not return to duty.

According to some estimates, about 4,800 Iraqi police and security forces have died during the war, and at least 30,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed.

Bush has dismissed calls for a US withdrawal as election-year politics and has consistently refused to give a timetable or benchmark for success that would allow troops to come home. *AP*

Iraq war costs estimated at $319 billion

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States has appropriated an estimated $319 billion for the war on Iraq through 2006 with an emergency spending package approved by Congress Thursday, the Congressional Research Service said.

The agency said average monthly spending on the war in Iraq may rise to $8 billion this fiscal year, up from $6.4 billion a month in 2005.

It said the Department of Defense's annual war funding rose from about $73 billion in fiscal 2004 to $102 billion in fiscal 2005, "and may reach $118 billion in FY 2006 if the pending supplemental is enacted," the report said.

The report was issued shortly before Congress approved a $94.5-billion emergency spending bill that included $65.8 billion to fund military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The CRS said $437 billion have been appropriated since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks to fund US military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, the broader war on terrorism and homeland defense.

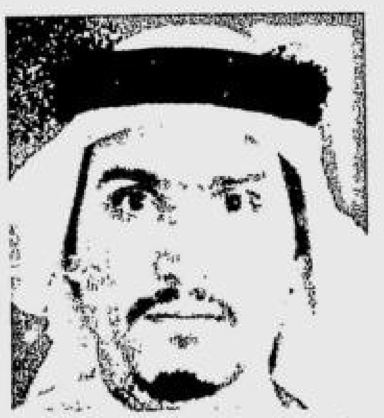
Spending on Afghanistan averaged $1.3 billion a month in 2005 and may rise to $1.5 billion in 2006, the report said.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that "war costs could total $371 billion between FY 2007 and FY 2016," it said.

That would assume a drawdown of US troops engaged in those operations from about 258,000 currently to 74,000 by fiscal year 2010, it said.

"Adding that amount to the $437 billion with the FY 2006 supplemental (budget request), total funding for Iraq and the GWOT (Global War on Terrorism) could reach $808 billion by 2016," the report said. *AFP*

US puts a face on Zarqawi successor



UNDATED photo of Abu Ayyub al-Masri. AFP

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—US MILITARY officers on Thursday put a face on the new chief of al-Qaida in Mesopotamia, releasing a photograph and details of the man they say succeeded Abu Musab al-Zarqawi after he was killed in an air strike last week.

In a news briefing, Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell, the US military spokesperson here, identified al-Zarqawi's probable successor as Abu Ayyub al-Masri, an Egyptian who he said had trained in one of the terrorist camps in Afghanistan run by al-Qaida in 1999.

Al-Masri, he said, was a "founding member" of al-Qaida in Mesopotamia and had become one of al-Zarqawi's "closest remaining associates." The group is believed to be responsible for dozens of suicide and car bombings across Iraq that have killed hundreds of Iraqi civilians.

Caldwell said that al-Masri—the name means "the Egyptian" in Arabic—is the same person as Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, whom al-Qaida in Mesopotamia declared Monday as their new leader in an Internet posting. Both names are thought to be pseudonyms. Shortly after al-Zarqawi was killed, US officials predicted that al-Masri would be the successor.

Still, on Thursday, US officials said they had seen signs of disruption, and a possible power struggle, going on within the group.

The Americans said al-Masri joined the Egyptian militant group, Islamic Jihad, in 1982 and went to Afghanistan in 1999 to train in the Farouq militant camp, where he learned about explosives. The Farouq camp was one of the main al-Qaida training camps before it was bombed by the Americans in October 2001.

Caldwell said al-Masri came to Iraq in early 2003 and helped to set up the original cell in Baghdad of what later became al-Qaida in Mesopotamia. More recently, al-Masri was a senior operational commander for the group, supplying suicide bombers and car bombs. He was responsible for all operations in southern Iraq, Caldwell said.

Al-Masri is believed to be operating in Baghdad, he said.

US officials said they believe that al-Zarqawi's death has disrupted the leadership of al-Qaida in Mesopotamia, and that a struggle for control of the organization may be under way. *NYT*

Washington sniper bares details of 4 new shootings

WASHINGTON—ONE OF THE two men convicted in a string of sniper attacks in the Washington area in 2002 told authorities that he and his co-conspirator were responsible for four other shootings that had not been publicly linked to them, according to a published report.

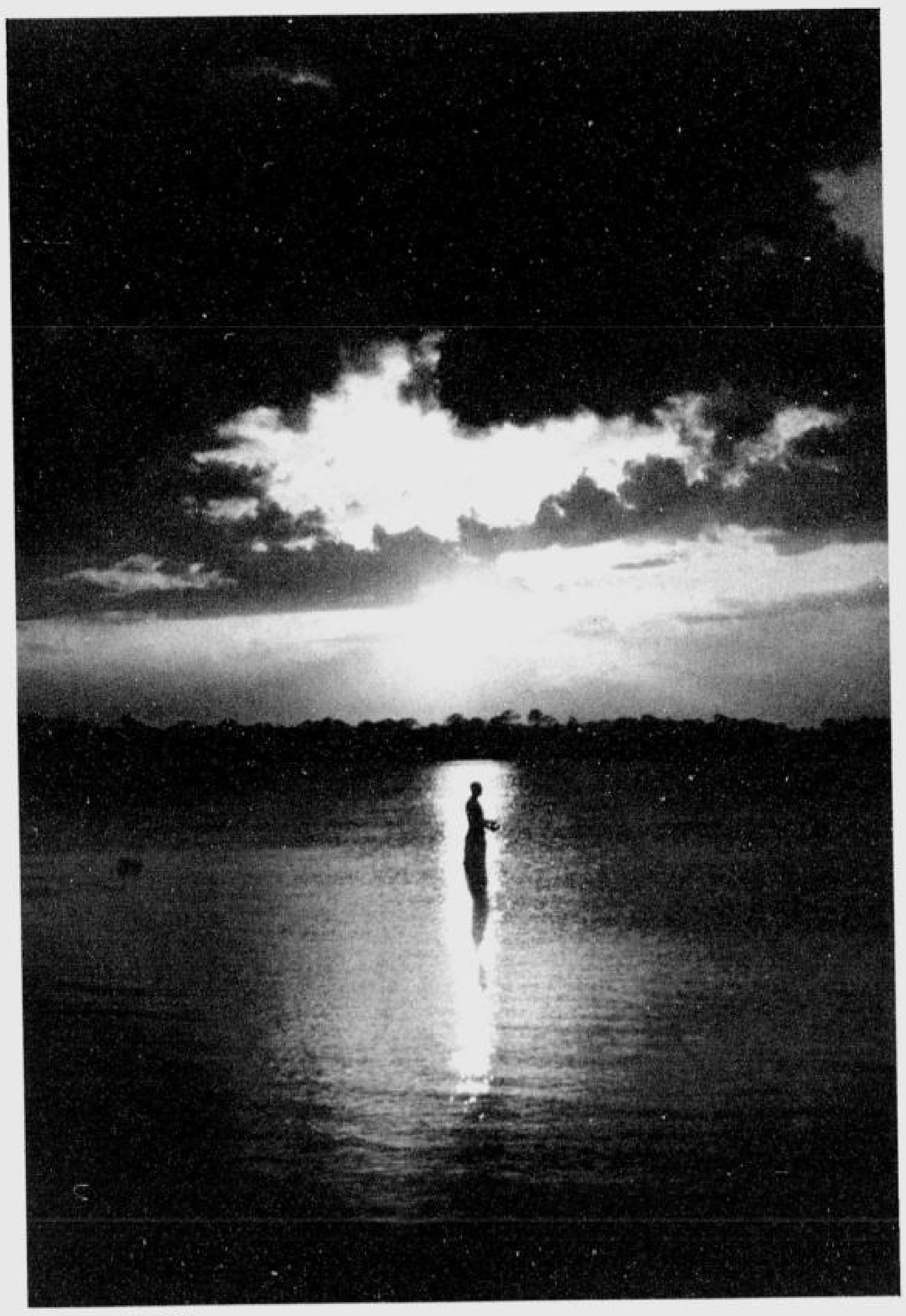
The Washington Post said in a story in Friday's editions that Lee Boyd Malvo told authorities about the shootings—two of them fatal—occurred before the three-week spree in October 2002 in which 13 people were shot, 10 fatally, in the Washington area.

The Post said a second source confirmed that investigators have received information implicating Malvo and John Allen Muhammad in the four other shootings.

Law enforcement officials interviewed Malvo extensively to prepare for his testimony at Muhammad's trial last month in Maryland.

The two most recently linked homicide victims were a man shot in Los Angeles in February or March 2002 and a man shot in the head from a distance May 27, 2002, in Denton, Texas, a Dallas suburb. The two survivors are a 76-year-old Tucson man shot May 18, 2002, at a golf course in Clearwater, Florida. and a 54-year-old Louisiana man shot during a robbery on Aug. 1, 2002, after leaving a shopping mall in a suburb of Baton Rouge, The Post reported.

Besides the Washington area shootings, Muhammad and Malvo are linked to earlier shootings in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland and Washington state. They are also suspects in the March 2002 shooting of golfer Jerry Taylor on a Tucson, Arizona, golf course. *AP*



GONE FISHING

Bathed in the day's last light, Greg Roscoe fishes the shallow waters near the Dunlawton Bridge in Port Orange, Fla., June 15. AP

Fossils indicate all birds had a common ancestor

FILLING A GAP IN THE EVOLUTION of birds, scientists have dug up fossils of a bird that lived 110 million years ago and looked remarkably like a small modern-day waterfowl.

One of the new fossils, from northwest China, even preserves the webbing between the toes. The finding, reported Friday in the journal Science, supports the notion that all living birds, from ostriches to ducks to hummingbirds, descended from an ancestor that lived by the shore.

The first fossil of the bird, *Gansus yumenensis*, was discovered 25 years ago, and it was named after where it was found, near the city of Yumen in the Chinese province of Gansu. But that fossil was just the left foot and part of the ankle, enough to show that the Gansus was small—about the size of a robin—but leaving much unknown.

In 2004, researchers led by Hai-lu You of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences returned to the region and found about 40 more fossils of Gansus in an area that was once a lake. The best preserved fossils are nearly complete and even show parts of the feathers, although none include the bird's skull.

The bones of the upper body suggest that Gansus was able to take flight from the water, much like today's ducks. Webbed feet and bony knees, which probably anchored strong muscles, show that Gansus could swim.

"We have thought of it as more like a diving duck or a loon," said Matthew C. Lamanna, an author of the Science paper who is assistant curator of vertebrate paleontology at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. "We see it as a swimmer or a diver." *NYT*

How to solve obesity in the US: Redesign neighborhoods

By Chase Squires

DENVER—IT'LL TAKE MORE than public service campaigns to solve the US obesity problem, according to fitness experts who say neighborhoods must be designed so people can get around without their cars.

Virtually everything American society has done for the past 100 years has made it easier for its people to be fatter, said James Sallis, a San Diego State University psychology professor, and others who gathered recently at the American College of Sports Medicine's annual meeting.

"We've built an unhealthy world in a lot of different ways," said Sallis, who was once dubbed an "obesity warrior" by Time magazine.

Sallis contends change will come only when the public demands walkable development, more federal money for parks and bike paths and even a tax on industries that promote sedentary lifestyles (he pointed to video game makers, movie theater chains and even electric Segway scooters).

Proof that people will accept an active lifestyle and walk to parks and shopping if they can is found in the "new urbanism" style of planned communities, the experts contend. They pointed to Denver's Stapleton neighborhood, an enclave of new homes built where the city's old airport used to be.

The neighborhood is a mix of shops, offices, parks, apartments and houses linked by wide sidewalks and meandering bike paths. Architecture varies from single-family homes to rows of brownstones. Tom Gleason, a spokesperson for developer Forest City, said the design has been a hit.

"People will walk if you give them that opportunity," he said.

Jack Berryman, a professor of medical history at the University of Washington, said active lifestyles date back centuries and President Theodore Roosevelt famously worried about Americans' "slothful life." Before both world wars, military leaders complained about "soft" recruits. President Dwight D. Eisenhower launched the President's Council on Physical Fitness in 1956.

"Given all that, which I am suggesting got the word out, it's just failure, failure, failure. Fatter, not fitter," Berryman said.

Two years ago, the National Institute of Environmental Health Science hosted a conference on how society has engineered activity out of American life. Institute spokesperson Christine Bruske said a similar conference last year focused on how children are affected, but new ideas take time.

Without a coordinated effort among federal, state and local governments, communities can't compete, Sallis said. Transportation money goes to highways, not bike paths or even sidewalks in newer developments.

"Everything is engineered against us," Sallis said. *AP*

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SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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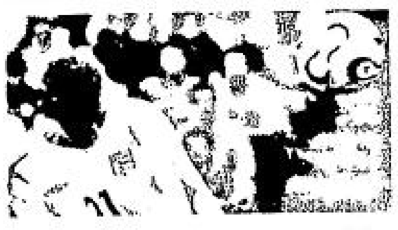

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Red Bull ousts listless Ginebra

Tough defense defangs Kings' Menk, Caguioa

GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Alaska vs Purefoods
6:35 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Red Bull/Ginebra

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—RED BULL wasn't really hot. Barangay Ginebra was simply not up to the task.

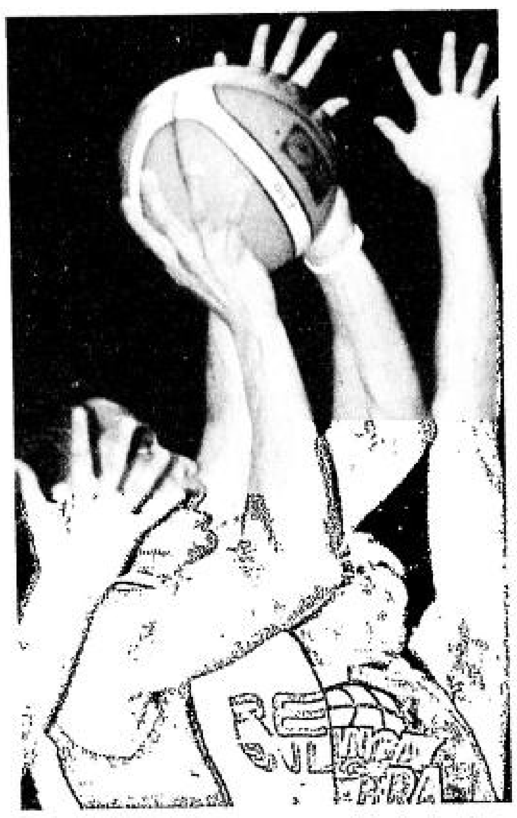
The Bulls laid a merciless full-court trap throughout and scored a runaway 120-98 victory over the Gin Kings to advance into the semifinals of the Grand Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Ynares Center.

For the second straight time, the Bulls bottled up Eric Menk in the paint while putting the cuffs on streak-shooting Mark Caguioa to set up a best-of-seven semifinal clash with the San Miguel Beermen starting tomorrow.

It will be Purefoods against Alaska in the other semifinal duel.

Caguioa finished with 17 points, a far cry from his 27-point series average.

Menk was even worse. The reigning MVP came up with 14 points and nine rebounds but was five-of-19 from the field. Caguioa converted six out of 21 attempts.



GINEBRA'S Eric Menk tries to block the shot of Red Bull's Lordy Tugade. ERIK ARAZAS

"I guess we have to look back at Game 4," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, who also ousted Siot Tanquingcen and the Kings in the semifinals of the Fiesta Conference.

"Our momentum and energy spilled over and the result was the same."

Coach Yeng Guiao capitalized on his manpower advantage, efficiently rotating his men, five of whom finished in double figures.

Cyrus Baguio and Leo Najorda had career-highs 23 and 21 points, respectively, while Junthy Valenzuela and Mick Pennisi added 13 and 12 points for the Bulls. Lordy Tugade also finished with 21 points.

"We cashed in on their manpower woes and used our bench depth to the hilt," said Guiao, whose wards dumped the Kings in Game 4, 118-97, to force last night's rubber match.

Allan Salansang's miracle shot with one-tenth of a second left before intermission and Mark Macapagal's nine-point cluster in the first half boosted the morale of the Kings.

But other than those feats, the Kings, who missed key men due to various injuries, were simply disappointing.

Menk was far from his usual lethal self in the paint and Mark Caguioa couldn't find his rhythm.

Rookie Paolo Bugia and Leo Najorda alternated in containing Menk, who made only one of eight field-goal attempts in the first half.

Baguio led Red Bull's quick start, scoring 11 points, deflecting a couple of shots and forcing Caguioa into turnovers as the Bulls built a 27-18 lead.

The scores:

RED BULL 120—Baguio 23, Najorda 21, Tugade 21, Valenzuela 13, Pennisi 12, Robinson 8, Alvarez 7, Fonacier 6, Bugia 6, Villanueva 3, Hrabak 0.

GINEBRA 98—Macapagal 20, Caguioa 17, Ferreria 16, Menk 14, Salangsang 8, Echavez 8, Holper 7, Salvacion 6, Sotto 2, Ramos 0.

Quarters: 27-18, 48-37, 80-65, 120-98

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* As awarded by Car Awards Group Inc.

Clavecilla unchallenged in the end

CLAVECILLA

By Musong R. Castillo

SILANG, CAVITE—SO MUCH FOR THE SHOOT-out.

Iggy Clavecilla, getting a little help from Francis Gaston, shot a five-over-par 76 yesterday and won the Philippine Seniors Amateur Golf championship by eight shots over his buddy and fellow Luisita mainstay here.

Gaston, the former RP Amateur champ, made a mess out of his final round with a fat 8 on the par-3 eighth as he closed out with an 83 at the Riviera's tough Langer course.

Clavecilla pulled away from Gaston after four holes, stretched the lead to 11 at the turn, and wound up with a 226 total after 54 holes of the event presented by Harbour Centre.

"Those were the breaks of the game and it was good for me to have had such a lead (after nine holes)," said Clavecilla, the defending Asia-Pacific champion. "I also got tired playing the last nine."

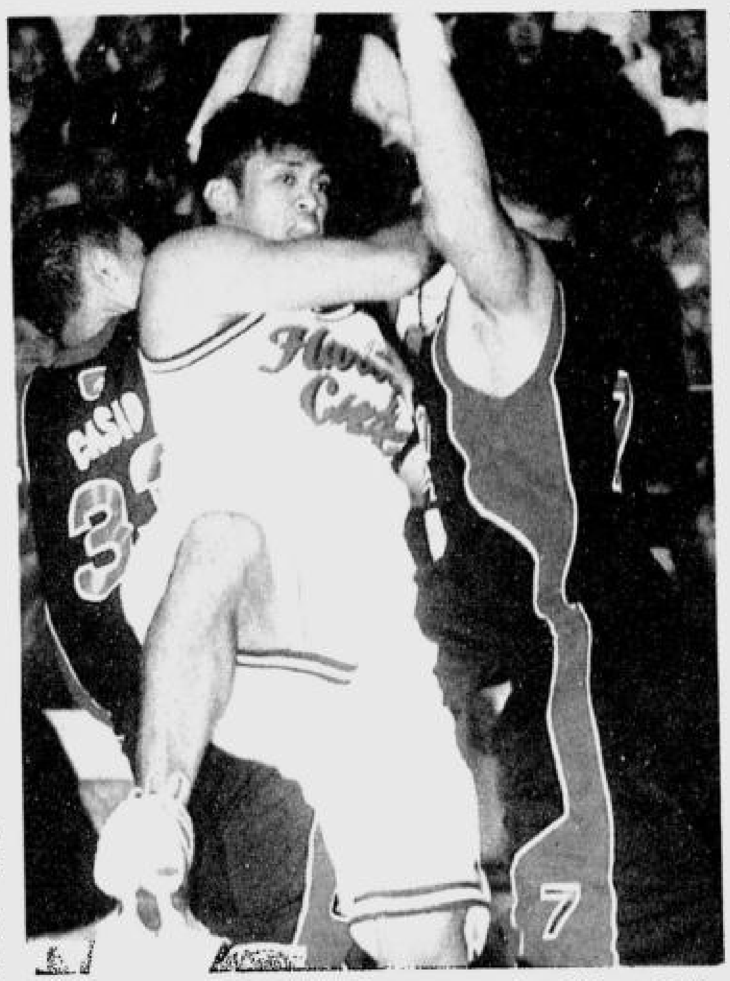
The 58-year-old Clavecilla, who together with Gaston and Philippine Sports Commissioner Richie Garcia made Luisita a powerhouse team in the PAL Interclub close to two decades ago, picked up his second title in this tournament after winning in 2003 at The Orchard.

Seve Chua finished third (82-242) and Bryan Cockrell carded an 81 for fourth with 246.

Edwin Arcilla and Joe Lao shared fifth place with 248s after an 83 and an 85, respectively, followed by Danny Pizarro (83-250), veteran Caloy Coscolluela (84-251), Jose Nepomuceno (90-259) and Philip Judan (94-266).

Other winners: Category 1 (55-59)—Gross: Ted Runes (81-158); Net: Arnaldo Bautista (79-152); Category 2 (60-64)—Gross: Tito Eusebio (89-171); Net: Arsenio Paredes (76-148); Category 3 (65-69)—Gross: Ben Liclican (75-160); Net: Benny Ricafort (69-143); Super Senior 1 (70-74)—Gross: Jun Galindez (91-184); Net: Ricardo Quintos (79-145); Super Senior 2 (75-above)—Gross: Carlos Iñigo (102-200), runner-up former President Fidel V. Ramos; Net: Enrique Beech (96-184).

Harbour, Toyota Otis clash for crown



HARBOUR Centre's Jerwin Gaco tries to get a shot off Toyota Otis' Joseph Casio (left) and Dennis Daa in Game Four. ERIK ARAZAS

By Jasmine W. Payo

WHEN JOSEPH YEO COULDN'T GET HIS SHOTS TO FALL EARLY in Game 4, Harbour Centre's top gunner vowed to make up for it in some other ways.

"He said he was unlucky, so he'll just contribute in other areas," said Portmasters coach Jorge Gallent. "He ended up getting the most rebounds in the team, and he had many assists."

So for Gallent, it will all be about attitude when Harbour Centre and Toyota Otis dispute the PBL Unity Cup in a rubber match at 3 p.m. today at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

"If we play with the same attitude, we can close it out," said Gallent. "The desire was there from the beginning and we can't reach this stage if we don't have character."

GAME TODAY
(Olivarez Sports Center)
3 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Harbour Centre

Holding a 2-1 lead, the Sparks bungled the chance to bag their first title when the Portmasters, who are also seeking a maiden crown, convincingly claimed Game 4 with a 73-55 triumph last Thursday.

Point guards LA Tenorio and Chico Lanete pushed the series to a deciding Game 5 by combining for 35 points for Harbour, which got a measly point from Yeo.

The Sparks, who won the odd-numbered games of the series, also missed the services of starting forward Aaron Aban due to a sprained wrist.

"If Aaron was around, they wouldn't have dominated the boards," said Sparks coach Louie Alas. "He really wanted to play."

The Portmasters won the battle off the boards, 51-37, despite the presence of the Sparks' 6-foot-7 centers Mark Andaya and Fil-Am Joe Devance.

The Portmasters bench also outscored the Sparks' relievers, 42-23.

Alas said everything will boil down to execution.

"If we want to win the series, we have to be sharp on both ends of the court," he said. "If we can't execute our plays, then we will have a hard time stopping Harbour Centre."

After Toyota Otis claimed the opener at 68-51, Harbour Centre leveled the series in Game 2 with a 78-63 victory.

The Sparks then moved on the verge of winning the crown with an 83-80 win in Game 3, but the Portmasters and forged a winner-take-all match with a 73-55 win.

Valencia, P'gasinan advance to NBC semifinal

A COUPLE OF REVERSALS marked wild-card playoff matches in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship Thursday with favored Forward Taguig and North Cotabato getting the door.

The former Northern Division champion Taguig of Mayor Freddie Tinga fell to the Pangasinan Hundred Islands, 68-71, at the C.P. Tinga gym in Taguig City while the North Cotabato Braves of Gov. Manny Piñol succumbed to the Valencia Golden Harvest of Mayor Jose Galario Jr., 72-75, also at its own court in Kidapawan.

The shocking wins shoved Hundred Islands and Golden Harvest into the semifinals.

Valencia will go up against defending champion Ozamiz Cotta while the Pangasinenses, backed by the Pangasinan Amateur Basketball Association led by its president Mayor Hernani Braganza will face North's top team, Spring Cooking Oil-Parañaque, in the semifinals.

Spring five, Bahrain dispute title

SPRING COOKING OIL BLASTed AFAOFI, a Filipino-Bahraini team, 98-80, Thursday to barge into the finals of the fourth Bahrain-Philippines Goodwill Games at the Juffair Youth Center gym here.

Ex-PBA star Nelson Asaytono powered NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Cooking Oil Masters to the lopsided triumph with 17 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

Six-foot-seven Hassan Abdul Nabi and Bong de Guzman led the RP-Bahrain combination with 23 and 20 points, respectively.

"I think we have a good chance against the Bahrain national team in the finals," said Spring coach Yong Garcia.

Aunzo hits 2 birdies, ties Bayron

DAVAO—UNHERALDED FERDIE Aunzo birdied the last two holes to forge into a tie with Jay Bayron for the second-round lead yesterday in the Samsung Tour third leg at the Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club course.

The 25-year-old Aunzo, who grew up in Davao like his childhood friend Bayron but is now playing for Eastridge, shot a five-under-par 67 to claim a piece of the lead at 138.

Bayron, who broke the course record with a 64 spiked by an ace in the first round, soared to a 74 and lost his overnight seven-stroke advantage.

The co-leaders held a three-shot lead over Mark Fernando (69-141), with Caddies Open standout Joseph Labajo (69-142) and Gene Bondoc (700-142).

The five others who made the 36-hole cut were Mike Bibat (71-143), Miko Yee (72-144), Jonel Ababa (70-145), Louie Dacudao (72-146), Boboy Jaraula (74-146) and Romeo Depilo (86-161).

Crystal Superal, Imee Garcia and Beth Kimura emerged as the first three winners by topping the ladies Class A (71-70), ladies Class B (79-82), and ladies Class C (90-93-183), in that order.

Del Rosario, Korean win; Lecaros shines

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DEL ROSARIO: All-events

NATIONAL TEAM STALWARTS captured most of the major awards despite a serious foreign challenge in Class O Thursday night in the 35th PBC-Boysen International Open Tenpin Bowling Championships at the Green Valley lanes in Pasig City.

Former Asian Games and World Championship gold medalist Liza del Rosario clinched the ladies' All-Events plum, besting Malaysia's Wan Nur Atiqqa, 1747-1733. Liza Clutario, the 2004 Southeast Asian Games Masters champ, bagged third place with a 1726 total.

The men's All-Events went to Korean Seo Jung Hwan, the current top qualifier for the Masters competitions who amassed 1991 to beat former RP team coach Purvis Granger, 1991-1837. Markwin Tee was third with an 1833 total.

But 13-year-old Anjo Lecaros stole the thunder from the more experienced winners by rolling the fourth perfect game of the tournament in placing third in the men's Associate Masters.

Lecaros' 300 propelled him to third behind champion Joey Velez (2004) and Carlos Candano (1980) with 1936.

Lynn Tan, playing for TCBA, claimed the ladies' Associate Masters with a 1768 total.

P300,000 RICHER

Pucay rules PGAP by 1

TAGAYTAY CITY—MARS PUCAY CAME back from three strokes off the pace with a second successive 3-under-par 69 yesterday to win the P1 million PGAP championship at the Splendido here.

The long-hitting Baguio native nailed down eight birdies, the last coming on the par-4 16th hole that boosted him past three-day leader Antonio Lascuña by a shot in the tournament presented by Jesus P. Bustamante Jr.

Lascuña, the former The Country Club Invitational winner, wound up with a 73 for a 281 tally, three clear of the third-placed Richard Sinfuego, who submitted a 70.

"Practice has been paying off well," said Pucay, the former caddy bankrolled by Mizuno and Mesaland of his second win of the year worth P300,000.

Pucay quickly pulled even with Lascuña by birdieing his first four holes.

Former Philippine Open champion Cassius Casas closed out with a similar 69 for a level 288 and fourth place.

The event was mainly sponsored by JP Golf Korea and backed by Kim Hyoung-min.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Spark (4), Batang Eleven (2), Whily Nily (6), Mangul (1)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bing Bong (1), Fair Urduja (4), Petro Dollar (6), Mu Little Africa (2), Seven Lakes (3)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Miss Victory (6), Blue Print (1), Golden Music (9), Princess Ashley (4), Bombadier (5)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Odessey (1), Sweet Talk (2), Tell Henry (3), Tiger Lewis (4)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Unang Apo (7), Best In Class (2), Golden Act (4), Iron Mic (3)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Sol Invictus (2), Liar (1), Camberwell Beauty/Denise Pet (6), Thereshope (8), Black Peacock (12), Incorruptible (9)
Race 7—((Qrt/Tri)—Mamaya (6), Slatkis (1), Frosty Bally (5), La Tienne (3)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Empire Lady (9), Ikaw Pag-asa Ko (4), Gelay's Charm (5), Express Strike (8), Kalashnikov (3)
Race 9—(Tri)—Monalisa (5), Beagle Two (1), Angel Of Light (4)
Race 10—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Look Of Love/Federal Court (11), West N Wild (2), Silver Cho Cho (8), Pirouette (10), Yoshiwara (3)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Heroics/Staunch Ally (4), Bellin Bellin (1), Speed Of War (6), Fairy Queen (5)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Hale And Hearty (7), I Remain (10), Wild Orphan (5), Reign Of Fire (1), Lady Cathy (6),
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Ferrarione (12), Honoree (6), Chicklet (10), Drink N Drink (4), Nitty Gritty (3), Smooth Strike (2)

Caidic launches 'The Triggerman'

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

FOR THE FIRST time in his 43 years, Ginebra team manager Allan Caidic celebrated his birthday in a unique way, and in a most unlikely place—a bookstore!

Simultaneous with his birthday bash, Allan launched his autobiographical book, "Allan Caidic, The Triggerman," at the National Bookstore at the Shangri-La Mall. The invitation was for 6 p.m. of June 15.

Allan said he expected friends and associates—people who had touched his life in a significant way—to be at the launch.

* * *

People were starting to mill outside the bookstore when I arrived just before 6 last Thursday.

I read in a spirits' book years ago that on a person's birthday, he is given a fresh ration of energy or life force that would last him the entire year until his next birthday.

A person must use this energy wisely and even try to generate more through various means, otherwise, he is likely to go "low batt" way before his next ration.

The book said the reason why a person is usually susceptible to accidents, illnesses and other negative occurrences just before his birthday is because he has used up his life force for the year.

* * *

In Allan's case, he looked like he just got his fresh ration last Thursday night. He was in such high spirits you could practically feel the electricity oozing from him. Allan shook every well-wisher's hand with vigor and "*beso-besoed*" the lady-guests with glee.

Allan's guests represented different generations in Philippine basketball. The "blast from the past" cast included his University of the East mentor Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan, who was reunited with him in the PBA's defunct Presto team, and his Warrior teammates Jerry Codiñera and George Ella.

Red Bull assistant coach Roehl Nadurata, another former coach, was there to join the festivities. From afar, I thought that the silver-haired gentleman chatting with Roehl and Baby D was newly appointed UAAP commissioner Elmer Yanga. On closer scrutiny, I was surprised to see that it was former Presto team manager Ignacio Gotao, who was also the team's representative to the PBA board.

The real Elmer Yanga walked in much later.

I didn't make a head count, but I believe the Ginebra Kings, led by coach Siot Tanquingcen who was accompanied by his wife, came in full force. Also gracing the affair were San Miguel Corp.'s Henry Cojuangco, Robert Non and Jun Cabalan, Allan's fellow team managers, old chums Samboy Lim and Hector Calma, and PBA coaches Jong Uichico and Binky Favis.

The affair was truly star-studded, the small venue filled.

The party was still in full swing when my pal Rhea Navarro and I decided to take a French leave, with the intention of returning.

* * *

Bumping into Siot and his wife on their way to one of the pizza restaurants, I couldn't help but inquire about his heavily bandaged arm, which I didn't notice in the past, probably because it was flesh-colored.

"What happened?" I asked.

"*Katangahan* (stupidity)," was Siot's short explanation.

I told him he was lucky his bones didn't get crushed.

"But they did," he said, making me more curious as to the cause of the injury.

"I'll bet you smashed the brick wall with your bare hands after the Kings lost," I joked.

Siot just laughed. I guessed right.

* * *

The morning after, I texted Allan for some post-celebration notes.

He said it was his happiest and most memorable birthday ever and he had a long list of people and entities to thank for this. He mentioned San Miguel Corp., Ginebra, Accel, Tamayo's Catering, Kolins TV, Atlas Publication and National Bookstore. He also thanked *kumpare* Reli de Leon, and writers Tito Talao, Dulce de la Cruz, and last but not least, yours truly.

Peña second-quickest behind Irishman; Sy holds 4th

PEÑA: New car

SY: Car set-up woes

GUANGDONG—EVERYTHING FELL INTO place for the Philippines' Dado Peña Friday as he blazed through the Zhuhai International Circuit second quickest in his new Dallara 304 car in the last official practice run of the Asian Formula Three series' fourth round here.

Peña negotiated the 4.3-kilometer Zhuhai Circuit in 1 minute, 36.527 seconds, which stood as the day's best until Irishman Ali Jackson of Aran Racing clipped it by two-tenths of a second in an extra lap.

"I feel confident," said Peña, 18, lead driver of Team Goddard who is running fifth in the series with 22 points. "I know it's not going to be given to me on a silver platter. At the end of the day, you're going to have to work for it."

"We got a pretty good chance," said team Goddard principal Mark Goddard. "Dado's been always in the pace or near the pace, so it's going to be interesting."

Sy, who swept the first three rounds in Batangas last month, came up with the fourth best time, behind Indon Moreno Soeprapto of Aran Racing. But like Peña, he was confident he could put it all together in the race for pole position Saturday.

"We still couldn't find the best setup for the car, unlike in Batangas when everything went right," said Sy, 18, one of three Speedtech drivers, along with lady driver Gaby dela Merced and the comebacking Roland Hermoso, in the field.

Jackson, a newcomer in the series along with Briton Dillon Battistini, who submitted the fifth best time Friday, clocked 1:36.316.

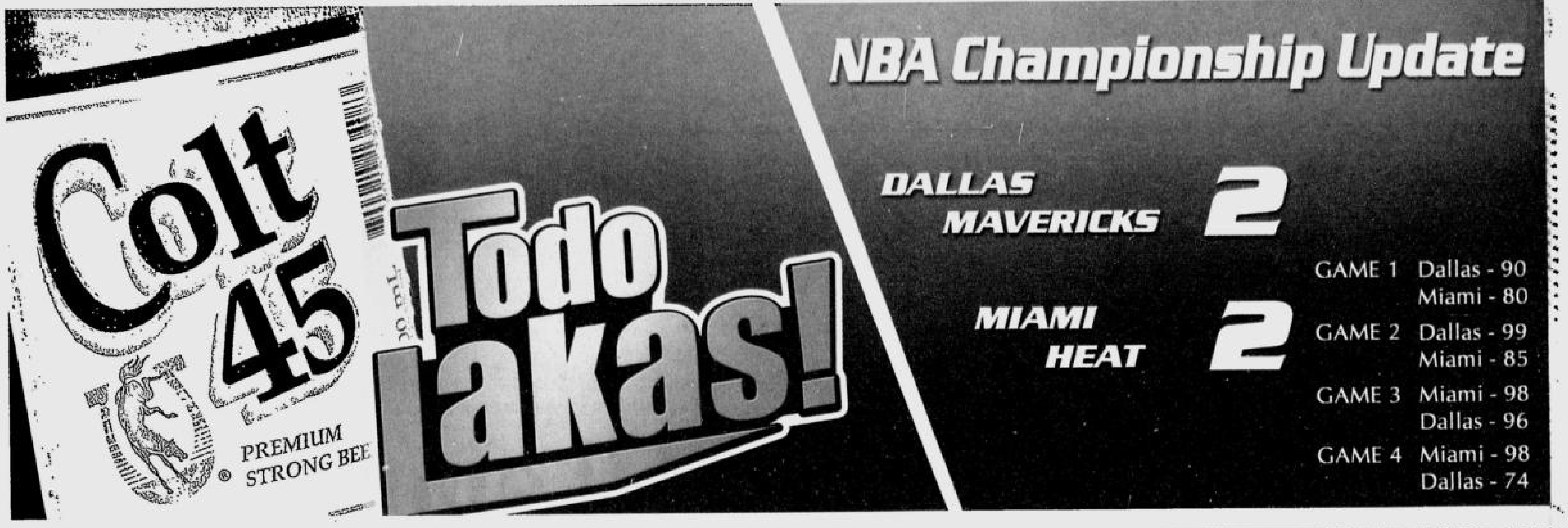
Soeprapto, taking over from Irishman John O'Hara at Aran Racing, timed 1:36.555, third best in the event backed by Yokohama and pldtmypad. (Race enthusiasts can log on to www.asianf3.net and www.mypad.net for race updates.)

Battistini, who posted a pair of stunning runner-up finishes last month despite driving at the Batangas Racing Circuit for the first time, clocked a fifth-best 1:37.285.

Thirteen drivers will contest pole position Saturday, among them Aran Racing's James Winslow of Britain, who struggled for the second straight day of practice runs.

Winslow is running third in this year's series with 32 points, a point off Battistini.

The field includes Macau's Chao Loumeng who is competing in the Promotions class for cars with chassis built in 2000 and older.



DALLAS MAVERICKS	2
MIAMI HEAT	2

GAME 1	Dallas - 90 Miami - 80
GAME 2	Dallas - 99 Miami - 85
GAME 3	Miami - 98 Dallas - 96
GAME 4	Miami - 98 Dallas - 74

Heat tie Finals as Wade shines

MIAMI guard Dwyane Wade (middle) celebrates the Heat's performance in Game 4. AP

Series down to a best-of-three

MIAMI—THE MIAMI HEAT RODE A SPECtacular 36-point performance by guard Dwyane Wade to crush the Dallas Mavericks 98-74 and level the NBA Finals at 2-2 on Thursday.

With Miami leading 59-50 early in the third quarter, Wade scored eight points and Shaquille O'Neal added five during a 13-2 streak that stretched the lead to 72-52.

Dallas's last chance came during an 11-2 run that extended into the final quarter and cut the lead to 80-70, but Miami went on a 16-2 spurt that took the score to 94-72 with just over three minutes to play.

"It was a big game for us today," Heat coach Pat Riley, whose team held high-scoring Dallas to just seven points in the final period, told reporters.

"I think once you start to see the possibilities—we're both at 14 wins (in the playoffs), we're both two wins away—it becomes as much will as it is execution."

Wade, who scored 42 points in Game Three, hit 13 of 23 shots and eight of nine free throws. The 6-foot-4, 210-pound guard has been unstoppable in the series, averaging 32.3 points.

"It's a series now," said Wade. "It's 2-2, the way we knew it was going to be if we came out and played the way the Miami Heat can play. A lot of people have been doubting us and we thrive off that. We've been doubted all year. Now, it's best-of-three. Looking hard to the next game."

The best-of-seven contest resumes on Sunday in Miami before shifting to Dallas for Game Six on Tuesday and, if necessary, Game Seven.

O'Neal had his most productive game of the series, scoring 17 points and grabbing 13 rebounds as Miami outscored the Mavericks underneath 42-26.

"We try to keep them off the paint," O'Neal said. "They are a very, very dangerous team. You really can't give them both.

"They really missed a lot of shots and they are probably going to come really, really hard on Sunday. We have to be prepared."

Jason Terry contributed 17 points and Dirk Nowitzki and Jerry Stackhouse 16 each for Dallas, who shot just 31.6 percent for the game.

Nowitzki misfired all night, hitting only two of 14 shots. The Mavericks entered the game shooting 38 percent from beyond the arc but hit only three of 22 Thursday. *Reuters*

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ENGLAND'S lanky striker Peter Crouch jumps above Trinidad and Tobago's Brent Sancho to head in a goal. REUTERS

England, Ecuador, Germany gain 2nd round

BERLIN—ENGLAND AND ECUADOR ADVANCED to the second round of the World Cup with wins Thursday, and host Germany was dragged into the next phase along with them.

Ecuador beat Costa Rica, 3-0, in Hamburg, and the win was enough to send the South Americans into the knockout round along with Germany. They'll play for first place in Group A on Tuesday.

The hosts also qualified with Ecuador's win. Costa Rica and Poland have been eliminated.

England, which used Wayne Rooney as a second-half substitute, advanced after late goals from Peter Crouch and Steven Gerrard gave the 1966 World Cup champion a 2-0 win over Trinidad and Tobago in Group B.

Later Thursday, Sweden got an 89th-minute goal from Fredrik Ljungberg to nip Paraguay 1-0.

Crouch headed in a cross by David Beckham in the 83rd minute, and Gerrard added another in injury time to give England its second straight win at the tournament.

England controlled play for most of the game in Nuremberg, but missed countless good chances, raising Trinidad's hopes of a second straight 0-0 draw in its first World Cup.

"It would be fair to say that you haven't seen the best of us yet, but we put ourselves in a good position. We know we can play better," Beckham said.

Rooney, who broke his right foot on April 29, came on as a substitute in the 58th minute. He replaced Michael Owen.

Rooney was cleared to play earlier in the day by independent British doctors. He has been training with the England squad since June 5.

Beckham took his time and found Crouch in front of the Trinidad net late in the second half. Crouch leapt over Brett Sancho and headed the ball past Shaka Hislop for England's first second-half goal in a World Cup since 1998.

The English had gone eight games without a second-half World Cup goal since Owen scored against Romania in 1998.

"England got so much position on the ball," said Trinidad striker Dwight Yorke. *AP*

- WORLD CUP ON SPORTSPLUS

12 a.m.—England vs. Trinidad & Tobago (replay tomorrow@ 4 p.m.)

1 p.m.—Sweden vs. Paraguay

Of witch doctors and wizards

HANOVER—ANGOLA'S COACH ON THURSDAY hit out at a Portuguese media report which said the team had brought a witch doctor to the World Cup. Luis Oliveira Goncalves rejected the report and accused broadcaster RTP of showing disrespect to his team. "I want to make a statement because RTP is saying we brought a witch doctor with us to the World Cup," Goncalves said. Angola made their World Cup finals debut last week against Portugal and were not disgraced in losing 1-0. Mexico's grand wizard carries out two rituals a day for the country's World Cup team, invoking "Holy Death" in front of a plastic skeleton to protect them and bring them luck. He has predicted that Mexico will reach the last eight and Germany will beat Brazil in the final. *AFP*

English helpless without Rooney

NUREMBERG, GERMANY—ENGLAND WITHout Wayne Rooney is like a car without an engine. Going nowhere.

Finally back from a broken foot, Rooney played the last 32 minutes of England's 2-0 World Cup victory over Trinidad and Tobago on Thursday. He didn't score or make any contribution to the late goals by Peter Crouch and Steven Gerrard that guaranteed England a place in the second round.

He didn't need to.

Rooney's first World Cup appearance lifted the confidence of the players and transformed England from a team of fumblers to a dangerous side.

When he did enter the game, there was always danger when England attacked. He used his speed to chase through balls and ran at defenders, always threatening to shoot. While Trinidad surrounded him with three markers, that left far more room for his teammates to set up chances.

Without Rooney, England looks clueless.

Rooney has the ability to get the best out of the other talented players on the England team. When he's not there, these experienced players, who have been together for at least two years, act like a team of total strangers.

While Rooney sat on the bench, he joined the 30,000 or so frustrated England fans wondering how their team was struggling against one of the complete outsiders in the 32-team competition. *AP*

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COLIN Montgomerie hits out of bunker on 13. AP

All about Colin

Steady 69 puts Montgomerie in midst of US Open spotlight

MAMARONECK, NEW YORK—WHEN HE walked off the course at Winged Foot with the lead in the US Open, Colin Montgomerie knew he couldn't hide anymore.

All those people who spent the past week talking to Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods now wanted to speak to a player who had gone nine years since last standing atop the leaderboard at the US Open.

Soon after signing a card which included four birdies in a 1-under 69 on Thursday, Montgomerie was asked if he minded Mickelson and Woods getting all the attention before the tournament.

"I'm not insulted at all. Phil's won the last two majors, so you can't not talk about that and Tiger," Montgomerie said. "It took the pressure off. When I used to come here in the '90s for this tournament, yes, you were talking about me more. So if you don't mind, let's not talk about me anymore. Ignore this whole conversation, and I'll start again tomorrow."

Montgomerie can only hope Friday goes as well as Thursday, when he bounced back after bogeying two of the first three holes. By making three birdies and seven pars over the final 10 holes, the best player never to win a major appeared very capable of ending that drought.

He goes into the second round one stroke ahead of Mickelson and seven ahead of Woods.

Playing for the first time since his father died, Woods ended a nine-week layoff with bogeys on his first three holes that sent him to his highest start ever in the US Open. He had to play the final six holes 1 under par to escape with a 6-over 76.

Masters champion Mickelson got off to a solid start in his bid for a third straight major, making a pair of 30-foot birdie putts and a bunch of short ones for par that proved equally important. He wound up at even-par 70, along with Jim Furyk, David Howell, Miguel Angel Jimenez and Steve Stricker.

Vijay Singh, coming off his first victory of the season last week at Westchester, had a steady round of 71 to join former Masters champion Mike Weir, John Cook and Fred Funk, who celebrated his 50th birthday on Wednesday. *AP*

Lady Stags battle Lady Archers anew

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	11	0
SSC	7	4
Adamson	7	4
FEU	5	6
Lyceum	4	7

GAMES TODAY
(*Blue Eagle Gym*)
12 noon—Lyceum vs. FEU
2 p.m.—La Salle vs. SSC

SAN SEBASTIAN RETURNS FOR some unfinished business against La Salle even as Far Eastern tries to keep its title bid going in the second round of the Shakey's V-League semifinals at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The Lady Stags, who boast high-scoring import Thai Jaroensri Bualee, hope to finally pin a first loss on the Lady Archers after coming so close to achieving the feat in their last meeting.

"We know we can beat them (La Salle), it's just a matter of conditioning our minds," said San Sebastian mentor Roger Gorayeb, whose team led La Salle in the early going last June 2 only to sputter down the stretch. That 25-21, 25-23, 9-25,21-25, 5-15 loss plus the fact that La Salle is in the finals may work in the Lady Stags' favor in their 2 p.m. tussle.

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SATURDAY Special

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Editor **Nestor U. Torre**
Assistant Editor **Rito P. Asilo**

BULLOCK AND REEVES. Scorching screen chemistry.

NOW SHOWING

Keanu, Sandra test fate, love in tearjerker

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Lake House"
D: Alejandro Agresti
S: Keanu Reeves, Sandra Bullock

TWELVE YEARS AFTER their career-defining team-up in "Speed," Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock are back in each other's arms for Hollywood's glossy but disjointed adaptation of Hyun Seung Lee's moving Korean love story, "Il Mare."

Alejandro Agresti's mystical romance revolves around Alex (Reeves), a restless architect, and Kate (Bullock), a lonely doctor, who exchange letters through a magical mailbox while living two years apart—he's in 2004, she's in 2006—in a picturesque house by the lake.

The film's pace occasionally trudges—and confuses: It doesn't even attempt to explain the strange things that happen between the two protagonists. But, it nevertheless works on the strength of Reeves and Bullock's scorching chemistry, which ignites sparks on the big screen.

The stories of "Il Mare" and Johnny To's "Sky of Love" (starring "Meteor Garden's" Ken Zhu) may be better handled, but in Sandra and Keanu's earnest performances (they smartly avoid schmaltzy histrionics), you'll believe that love knows no time—and ignore the story's contrivances.

Kate—as does the movie—poses a valid question: "What if you wait for your special someone your whole life, and later learn that no one is really waiting for you?"

But, true love is worth taking chances for. Sometimes, you don't know why things work out, they *just* do!

If you're a hopeless romantic who believes in destiny and the power of prayer, don't be surprised if "The Lake House" sweeps you off your feet.

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The fun in being Mitch Valdes

By Andy Bais

VALDES. Humor carries a degree of responsibility.

IN HIGH SCHOOL, Mitch Valdes was the "resident entertainer" who entertained her classmates during recess. "But, I didn't know I had a sense of humor. I thought it came naturally because, in my family, cracking jokes was a way of life,"

When Mitch ventured into the movies, she thought it was an opportunity to tackle serious roles for a change. To her dismay, she was still given comic roles in films! "*Ayokong nababababad sa isang* medium *at* style. *Gusto ko*, smorgasbord. *Pero dito sa atin, kapag* smorgasbord, *hindi ka yayaman*," she laughs. But, she's glad that people eventually accepted her as a singer.

Styles

When asked to describe her comedic style, she explains: "I just want to be myself onstage—no mask or camouflage. My humor doesn't come from a written character, but from personal experiences. *Minsan*, comedy doesn't have a punchline—it's the situation that makes it funny!"

Mitch performs her lounge acts without a full script. She lists down topics she can expound on. "You don't know what's going to work until opening night because, there are no rehearsals. It drives me crazy, but it works," she confides.

However, the show's musical numbers are a different matter. She says, "I hire only the best musicians and singers. *Para kang nanonood ng* play—*ako nga lang ang* singer, dancer *at taga-kuwento. At ang* script, *tungkol sa buhay ko*."

Integrity

For Mitch, humor carries a degree of responsibility. She doesn't take it lightly. She believes that "a comedic gift has to be treated with integrity. I keep the dignity of the comedian, *not* the clown."

Her latest show, "Been Der, Bin Dat," which goes onstage all Fridays of this month at the Mandarin Oriental's Captain's Bar, consists of Mitch's observations as a performer on TV and in films.

Mitch discusses personal issues—including her love life. She admits putting "a lot of heart and soul into the show. You will leave the theater thinking you know me very well!"

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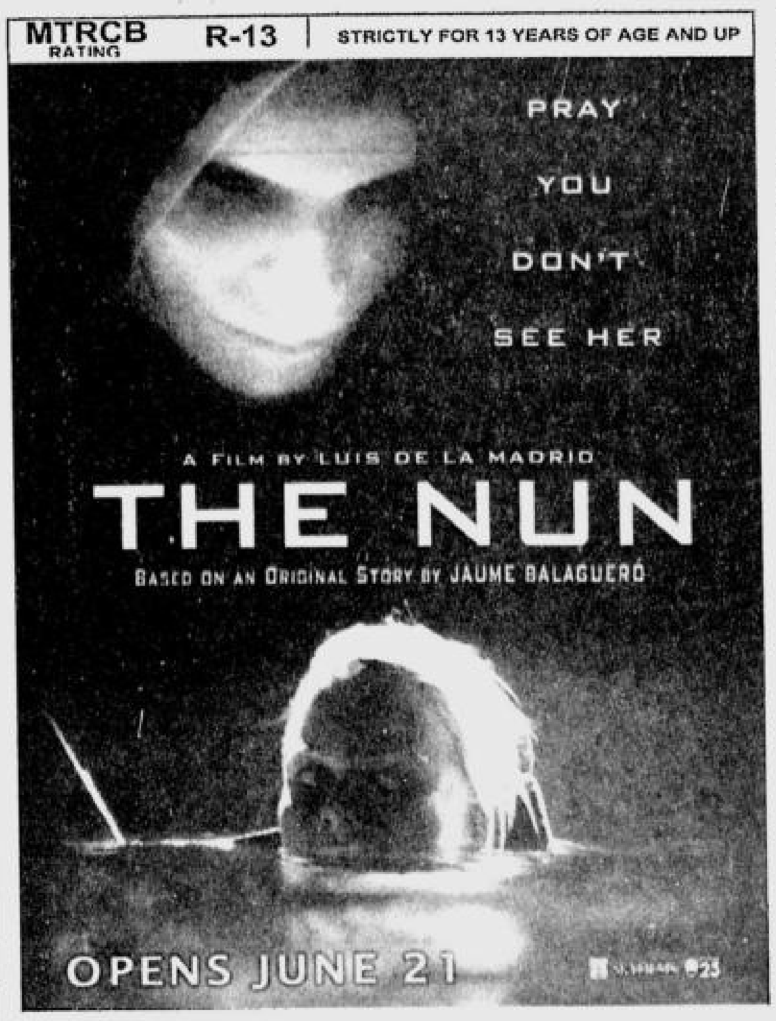

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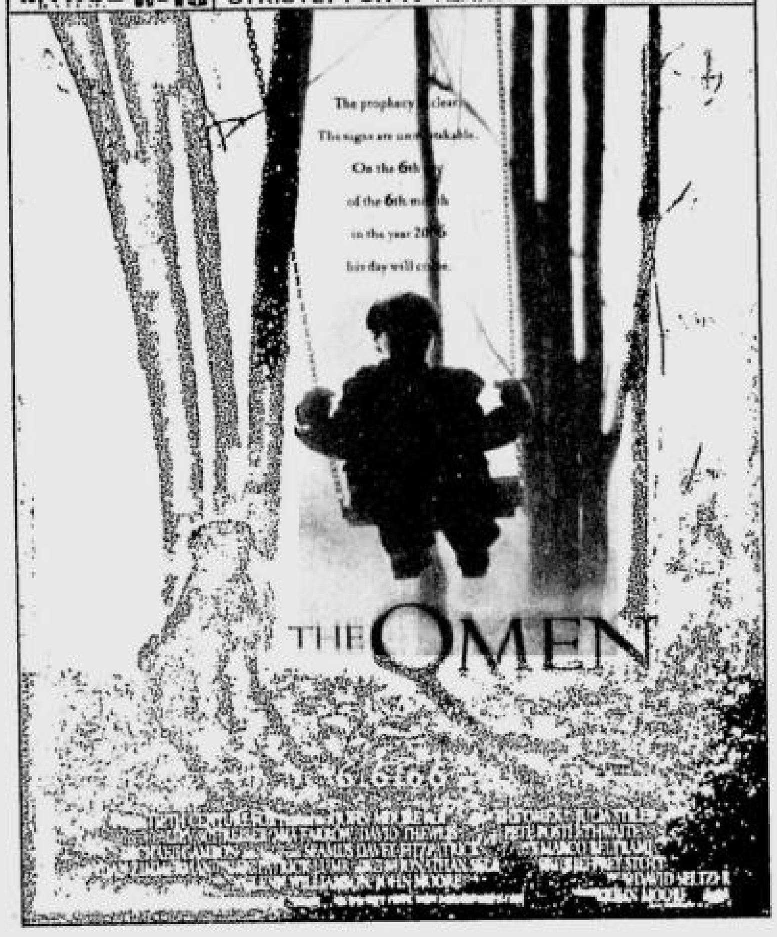

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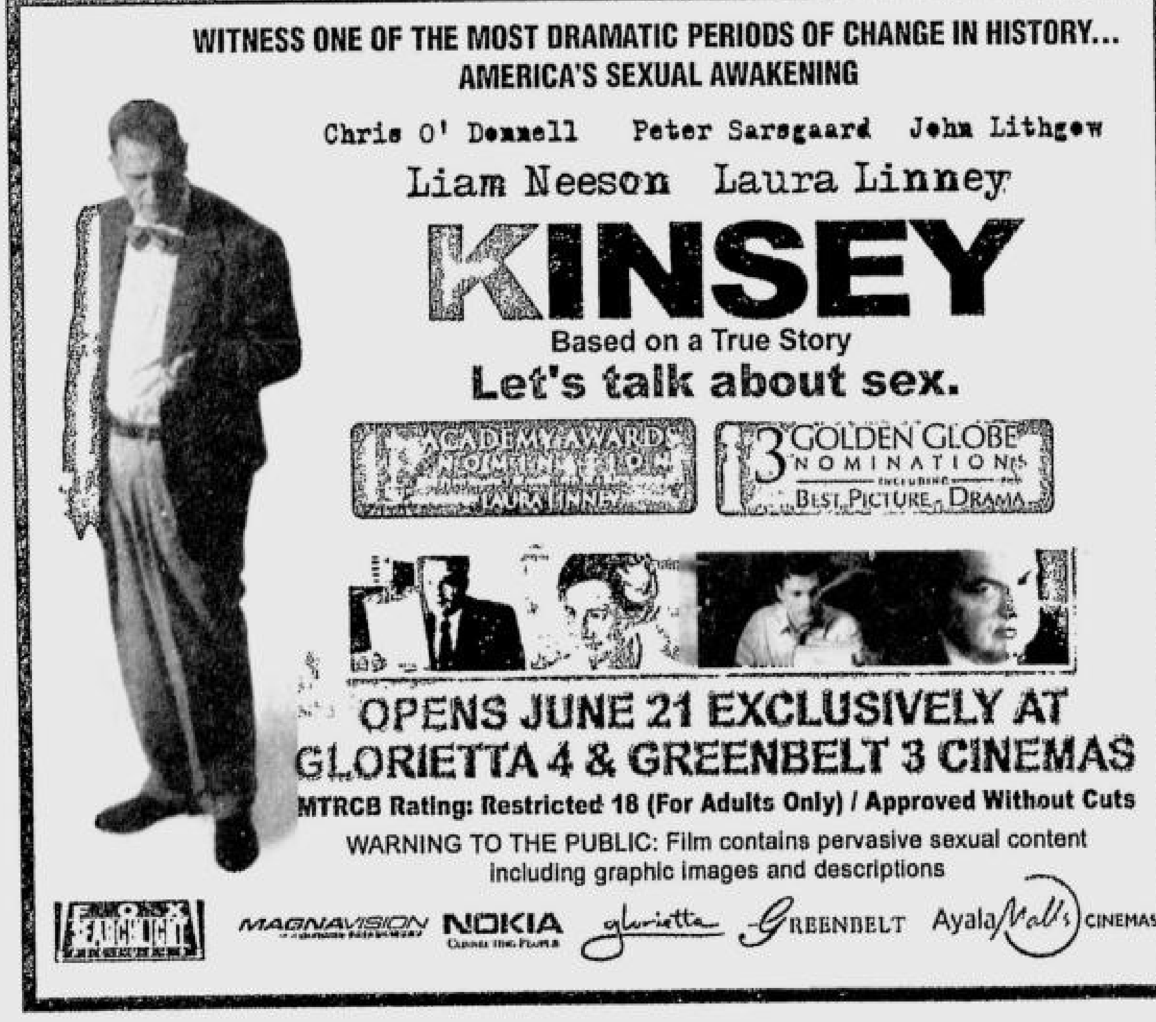

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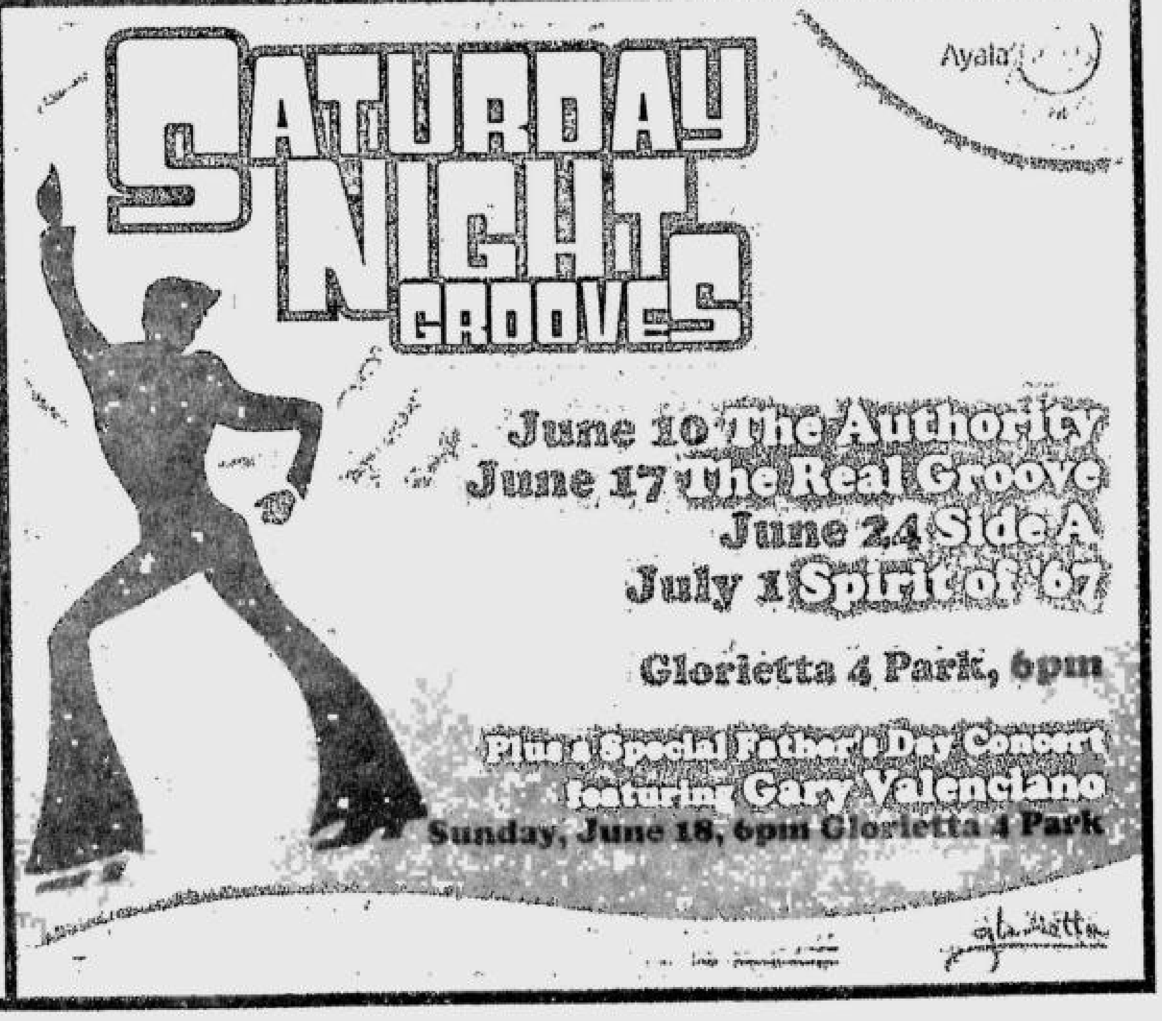

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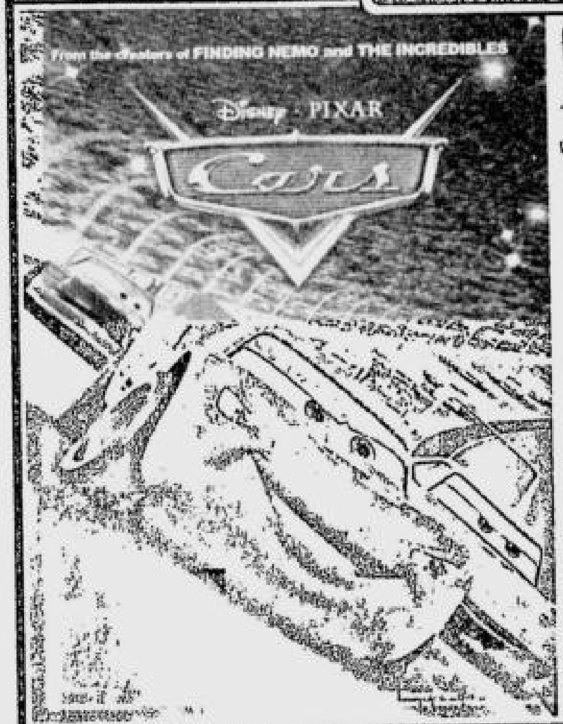
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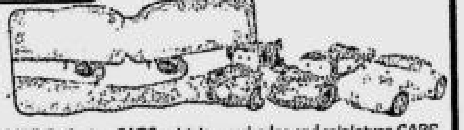

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Answer:

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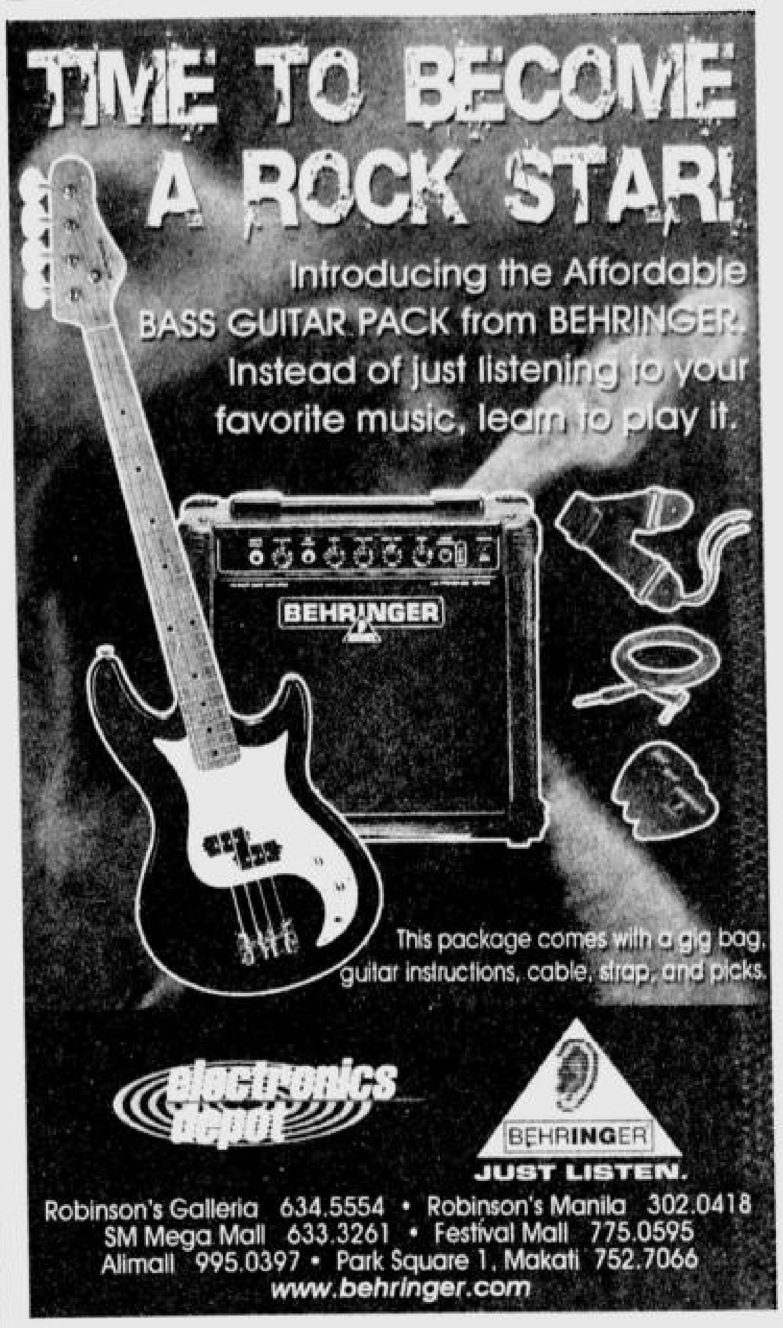

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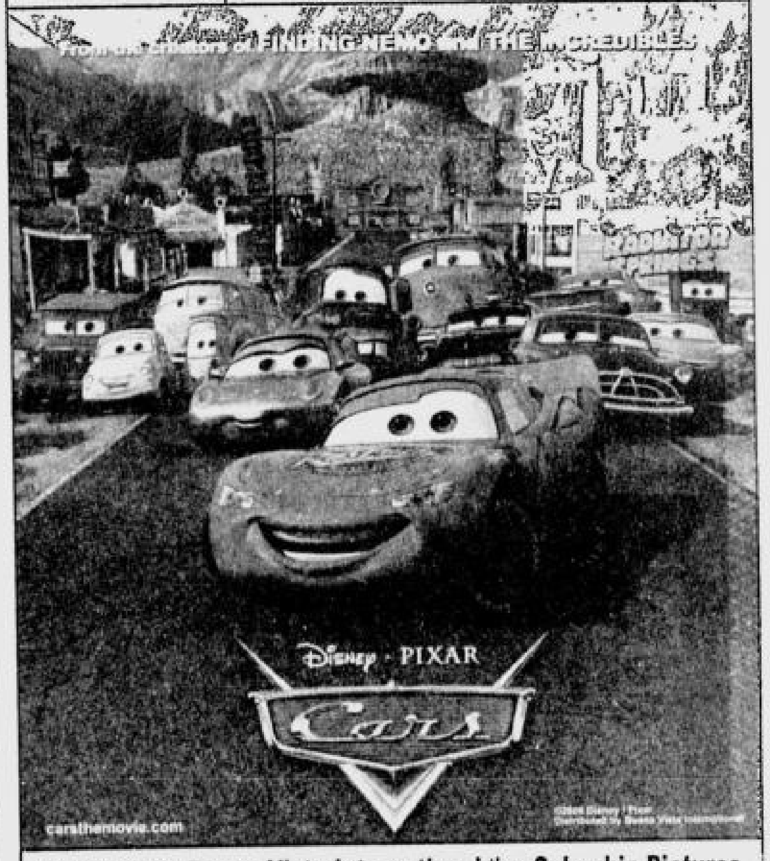
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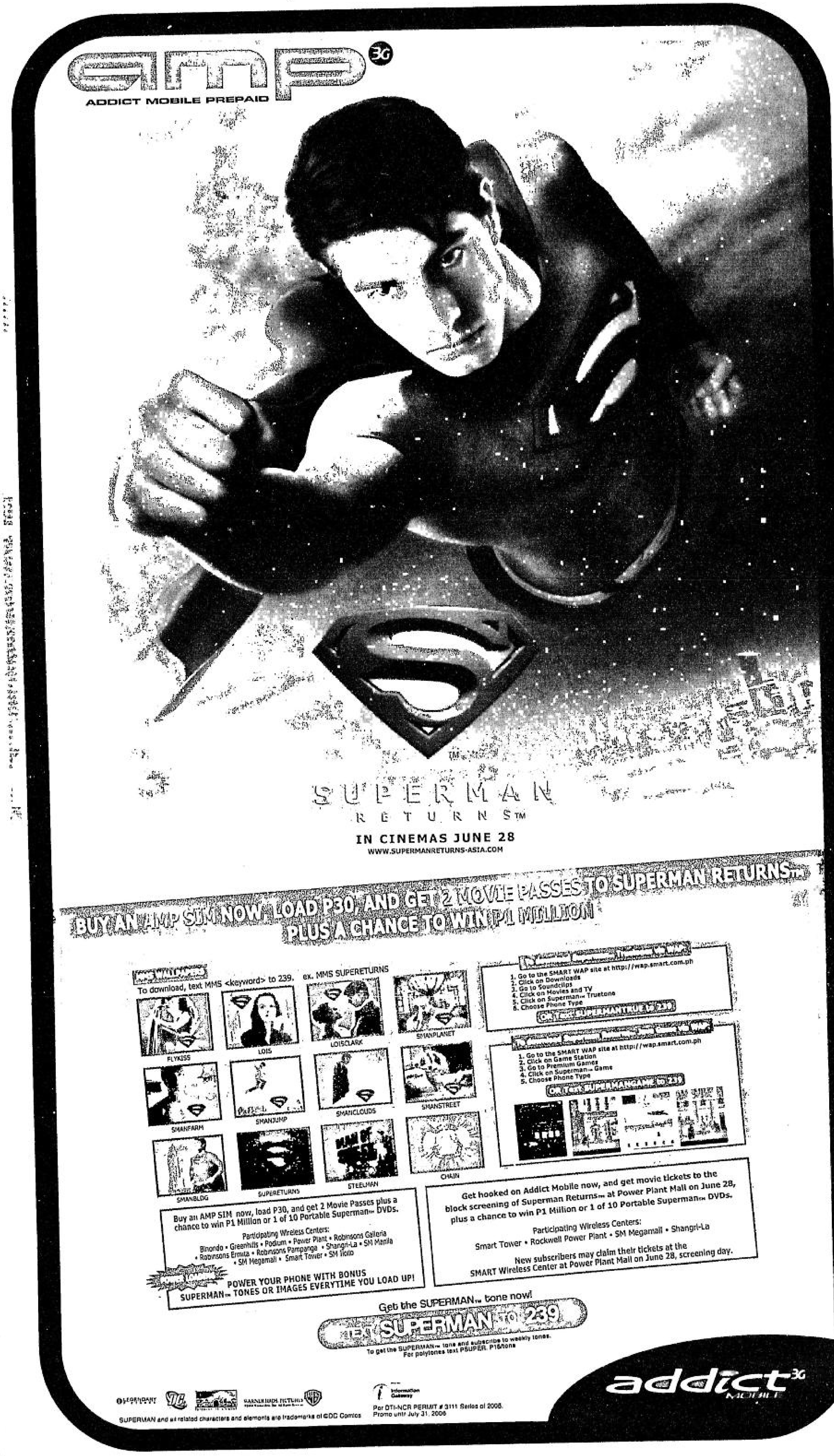
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Promo until July 31, 2006

Setting a very good example

By Nestor U. Torre

AGUSTIN. Has opted to do the right thing.

WE CONGRATULATE Sharon Cuneta for resuming her education. She's been talking about doing it for years, so it's great that she's finally going to school again—even if it's "only" on home study, or "e" mode.

Fact is, the home study aspect of Sharon's education makes it even more interesting and instructive, because it shows other people that there are many options now available to them if they have special requirements or schedules.

Personal reasons

Sharon may have resumed her studies for personal reasons, but her Megastar status has focused the media spotlight on it, and this has enabled her to set a good example for many people to resume their own interrupted studies. Good for you, Sharon!

Also worthy of commendation is Marvin Agustin's loyalty to and honesty about his incarcerated father, who was recently released from prison after many years.

Instead of sweeping the family "scandal" under the rug, as some celebrities have, Marvin has been forthright in informing the public about his father's situation through the years.

Chronically insecure

This isn't easy to do, because show biz people are chronically insecure about sustaining their careers' upward trajectory, which can be easily compromised by the merest whiff of personal scandal.

But, Marvin has opted to do the right thing in standing up for his father, and the public has appreciated his honesty and loyalty. Thus, it has supported his career through thick and thin, and he remains a popular young star to this day.

We trust that Marvin's good example has taught others to be similarly forthright about their problems or difficult situations in life.

Celebrity legs to die for

By Behn Cervantes

GRABLE. Popularly known as the "Bathing Beauty."

WHEN YOU THINK of beautiful legs, Marlene Dietrich immediately comes to mind. The German sex siren displayed her perfectly-shaped legs in "The Blue Angel."

Musicals

Betty Grable danced in Hollywood musicals that showed off her well-publicized pair of legs. However, she is best remembered as the enticing "Bathing Beauty" from her famous poster shoot. Her legs were so beautiful they were reportedly insured for a hefty million bucks. For this reason, Grable's assets were often referred to as the "million-dollar legs."

Also known for her shapely legs was Ann Miller, one of Hollywood's best tap dancers. Her legs were even shapelier than Grable's.

However, the most memorable pair of legs really belonged to the silver screen's classiest dancer, Cyd Charisse. Her long legs were the envy of women everywhere.

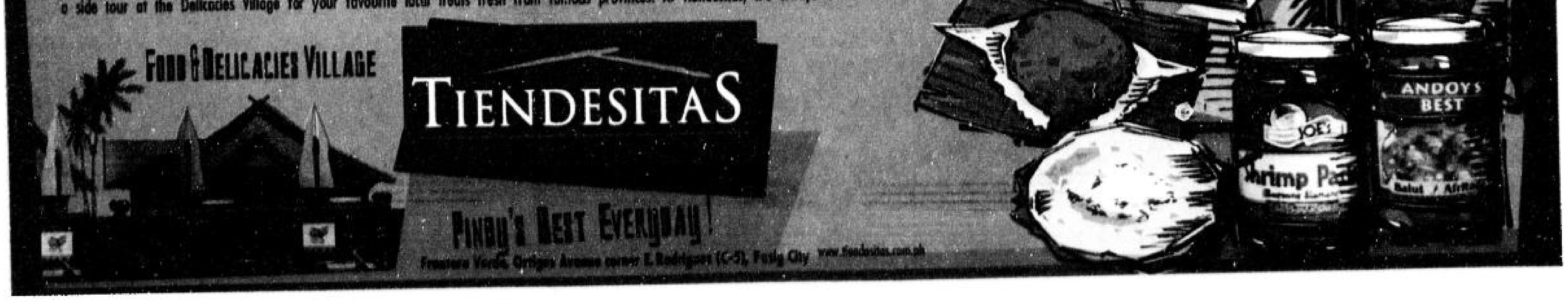
In the early '60s, Angie Dickinson was touted to have perfect legs. The tall blonde is remembered for her appearances in films like "Rio Bravo."

Male counterparts

However, these beauties had male counterparts in Tinseltown. Fred Astaire was known as Daddy Long Legs. In "The Pirate," Gene Kelly wore tights that displayed his muscular legs.

Even macho stars were noted for their legs. Burt Lancaster, a former acrobat, showed off a shapely pair in "From Here to Eternity," when he figured in a torrid love scene on a beach with Deborah Kerr. For his part, Tony Curtis proudly displayed his legs in his early costume flicks.

Even the greatest actor of the 20th century, Sir Laurence Olivier, wore tights in "Hamlet." Like Hollywood's glamorous vixens, Sir Laurence believed that, if you've got them, you gotta show them!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SATURDAY *Special*

Fatherhood becomes Julius

THE BABAOS. Primary focus on family life.

By Tintin Bersola Babao

WHEN I PRAYED FOR A PARTNER in life, I didn't just ask for someone who would love, respect and honor me as his wife. I wanted a man who would be an ideal father to my children. But, God gave me more than I expected in the person of Julius Babao.

But, who is Julius up close? Is he really as serious as the news anchor we see on the small screen?

Approachable

He is a funny, down-to-earth guy who cracks jokes and tells funny stories. He is most amusing when he mimics famous actors and politicians. And he is approachable: *Wala siyang pinipiling tao*. Yet, he has an uncanny ability to distinguish *kung sino ang manloloko at kung sino ang hindi*.

People are always surprised when they see my husband in person: *"Ay, ang guwapo mo pala!" "Mas payat ka pala at matangkad!"* Julius has gotten used to hearing these remarks, so he just smiles.

Looking mature on TV is, in fact, a plus factor when one is a male news anchor—some people believe it enhances credibility.

But, beyond his physical attributes, Julius' true assets lie in his strength of character.

Once, we almost figured in a vehicular accident when the car in front of us suddenly stopped. But, Julius kept his cool, and was even more concerned about the car's driver who turned out to be an old man—with his grandchildren seated in the automobile's back seat! Unknown to many, my husband is cool and composed.

Test of character

But, the true test of character came last year when Julius was wrongly accused by no less than the president of our country of coddling a suspected terrorist. The situation became a make-or-break trial for him, and could have ruined his broadcast-journalism career. But his conscience was clean. Instead of becoming confrontational about it, he humbled himself, took a leave of absence while ABS-CBN was investigating the incident, and kept a low profile.

It was during those darkest hours that Julius' true mettle shone through. In our private moments, he worried deeply about the welfare of his family. He didn't worry so much about people judging him unfairly, but he was concerned about losing me and our daughter Antonia.

Those dark moments brought us closer as a family, and our spiritual life grew even deeper.

In the end, truth and justice prevailed, and Julius' name was cleared. God was on our side.

Loving and playful

How is Julius as a father? He is a loving and playful dad. His parenting skills are instinctive. Antonia beams with delight each time her daddy comes home, because she knows what's coming—playtime—from *habulan* and hide-and-seek to lift-me-dad games.

He is also a conservative father: When he sees scantily-clad teenagers in malls, he remarks: "*Paglaki ni* Antonia, *hindi puwede ang ganyan kaikling* miniskirt!" Oh, I can imagine how strict a father he'll be!

Like other doting dads, he's thrilled to see his daughter's pictures in the papers, on TV, print ads and billboards. He is pleased to have his "mini-me" in Antonia.

Investigative program

Career-wise, Julius' hands are full: He anchors "Magandang Umaga, Pilipinas" daily, does reportorial work, co-anchors "TV Patrol" every night, writes for a tabloid, co-anchors "Magandang Morning with Julius and Tintin" on dzMM, co-hosts the top rating investigative program, "XXX,"—etc.!

Yet he finds time for our home and family life: He plays with our daughter, watches DVDs with me, supervises our home's carpentry and plumbing needs, and even buys the plants for our household. Julius *is* the man of the house!

Date nights

Saturday nights are date nights for the two of us—we watch a movie, shop and dine out. Sundays are reserved for the family—we take Antonia to attend classes or play at Gymboree.

So, how do I describe my husband? He is inherently a good man: He doesn't have a vice—doesn't smoke, drink, gamble, or womanize. His only "vice" is his profession.

I know I am guilty of putting my husband on a pedestal. But, why not? After all, despite his share of weaknesses and imperfections, daddy Julius has earned my love, respect and admiration.

Happy Father's Day, Julius!

MUHLACH with his four-year-old twins, Andres and Atasha.

Aga Muhlach, 'Ulirang Ama'

MONTAGE

AT 9 A.M. TOMORROW, AGA Muhlach will receive the 2006 Ulirang Ama award from the National Mother's Day and Father's Day Foundation. The awards' executive committee is led by Honorary Chairman Secretary Angelo Reyes. Dr. Rodolfo I. Talag is the awards committee chairperson, and Baby O'Brien is director for special projects.

"I thank my children for this rare honor," Aga enthuses. He is father to twins, Atasha and Andres, by Charlene Gonzeles-Bonnin, and an older son, Angelo Luigi, by Janice de Belen.

'Child of Our Time 2005'

This month, the Hallmark Channel treats viewers to the continuing stories of "Child of Our Tine 2005," a fascinating program that traces the lives of 25 babies born at the start of the millennium.

The season premiere is at 7:55 p.m. on June 18, with an encore telecast at 3:15 p.m. on June 19.

The kids are now five-year-olds and have started school. In the following four episodes, Prof. Robert Winston asks significant questions about the children's development: whether class, skin color, gender and nationality are already shaping our young children's sense of who they are and what they expect from life.

He also examines the extent to which the first five years of life impact on school careers, perception of a father's role,

AGA/ A3-2

Female perspective through music, poetry

By Rito P. Asilo

CONCEPCION. Sassy.

IN HIS POEM, "INVICTUS," WILLIAM ERNEST Henley succinctly captures man's unflinching resolve to embrace his destiny: "I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."

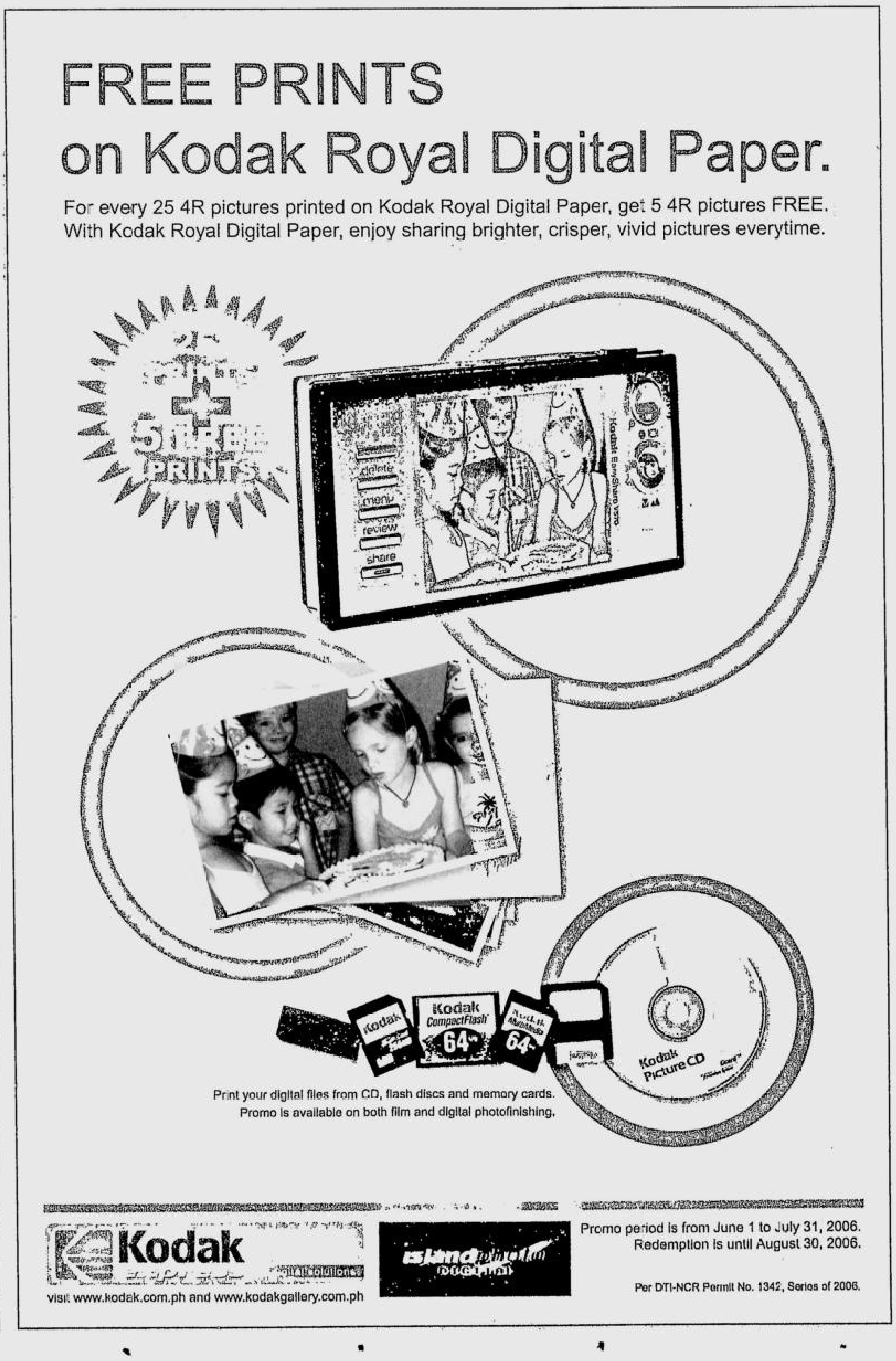
Gender equality

In her quest for gender equality and understanding, woman—man's supposed better half—had to hurdle more than just psychological musings about destiny and her place in society throughout history. But, times have changed.

And Kooky Tuason's gutsy, passionately provocative albums—the sizzlingly intimate "Romancing Venus" and its more topical, more cerebral sequel, "Romancing Venus 2"—try to seize the fairer sex's perspective in a combustible if capricious fusion of spoken words and music:

The first volume, for instance, features KC Concepcion in her

FEMALE/ A3-4



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1342, Series of 2006.

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MIRAMAX

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Aga Muhlach . . .

From page A3-1

how youths use their leisure time, and how many hours they spend watching TV.

Episode 12, "Identity Crisis," features a troubling year for the children as they struggle to come to terms with their identity, piecing together what it means to be a boy or girl, black or white, rich or poor.

'Scary Movie 4'

The hit comedy film, "Scary Movie 4," will hold its invitational Philippine premiere on June 20 at SM Megamall. No blockbuster movie or pop culture icon is safe from the movie's zany spoofs.

In "Scary Movie 4," the ever-naive Cindy Campbell (Anna Faris) finds work in a creepy old house that turns out to be full of ghosts and aliens. As she tries to save the world from destruction, Cindy encounters horrific plane crashes, bodacious blind girls, village idiots, disheveled rappers, kinky contraptions, alien sphincters—and even Oprah!

ALANDY AND DA ROSSI. Topbill Gil Portes' latest drama.

'Barcelona'

"Barcelona," the story of a mysterious woman and how she touches the lives of Filipinos in the capital city of Cataluña, Spain, recently wrapped up principal photography. Gil Portes' film topbills Alessandra da Rossi, Luis Alandy, Alan Paule, Tina Paner and Robert Arevalo.

The film captures landmarks like Antonio Gaudi's Sagrada Familia and Parc Guell, La Ramba (described by Somerset Maugham as 'the most beautiful street in the world), Barcelona cathedral and the so-called Filipino church of San Agustin, the monument to Christopher Columbus, Our Lady of Montserrat (a Marian shrine), and the Benedictine Abbey, where La Moreneta (Black Madonna) is enshrined.

MCO Arts Festival

The Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation opens its MCO Arts Festival with a piano concert celebrating Mozart's 250th anniversary on July 7 at the Francisco Santiago Hall. Featured artist is Aris Caces, a Filipino pianist based in Vienna. Call 897-4359.

Movies on TV

On HBO, June 17 at 9 a.m., "Real Genius." June 18 at 9 p.m., "The Terminal." June 19 at 9:45 a.m., "Pink Cadillac." 6:45 p.m., "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." 9 p.m., "Lorenzo's Oil." June 20 at 10:15 a.m., "The Goodbye Girl." June 21 at 6:30 a.m., "Ned Kelly." June 22 at 1:30 p.m., "Dirty War." 5 p.m., "All the President's Men." June 23 at noon, "The Bourne Supremacy."

On Cinemax, June 17 at 7:45 a.m., "American Gigolo." June 18 at 3:05 a.m., "From Here to Eternity." June 19 at 8 p.m., "Lone Star." June 20 at 11:40 a.m., "Philadelphia." June 21 at 2:40 p.m., "Guarding Tess." 4:10 p.m., "The World of Suzie Wong." June 22 at 1:35 p.m.; "The Appaloosa." June 23 at 8 a.m., "That Touch of Mink."

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE DA VINCI CODE • THX 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
3 CARS 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
4 GARFIELD 2: A TAIL OF TWO KITTIES 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
5 LAKE HOUSE 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
6 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
7 X-MEN 3 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
8 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
9 TAKE THE LEAD 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
10 THE OMEN 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 GARFIELD 2 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
4 LAKE HOUSE 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 CARS 10:30 12:40 2:50
TAKE THE LEAD 5:30 7:40 10:00
6 THEOMEN 10:10 12:30 2:50
X-MEN 3 5:30 7:40 10:00
7 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING 10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE INSIDE MAN 1:00 3:35
THE DA VINCI CODE 6:00 9:00
2 CARS 1:00 3.40 6:20 9:00
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
5 THE OMEN 12:25 2:35 4:45
X-MEN 3 6:50 9:00
6 LAKE HOUSE 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
7 GARFIELD 2 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
8 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING 12:50 2:50 4:50 6.50 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 GARFIELD 2
2 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS
3 THE OMEN / X-MEN 3
4 THE DA VINCI CODE
5 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
6 LAKE HOUSE

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1 MANAY PO
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

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2 CARS
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING

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2 FAILURE TO LAUNCH
3 THE DA VINCI CODE
4 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 THE SENTINEL
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 REINCARNATION
5 X-MEN 3

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1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 THE OMEN
4 FAILURE TO LAUNCH

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1 CARS
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 GARFIELD 2
4 LAKE HOUSE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 LAKE HOUSE
3 THE OMEN
4 GARFIELD 2: A TAIL OF TWO KITTIES
5 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
6 CARS

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 CARS
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 GARFIELD 2
5 LAKE HOUSE
6 X-MEN 3 / THE OMEN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 FAILURE TO LAUNCH
2 CARS
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 X-MEN 3
5 AQUAMARINE
6 REINCARNATION

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE OMEN
2 CARS
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 THE DA VINCI CODE
5 X-MEN 3
6 CHAOS

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CARS G 11:40,2:20,5:00, 7:40,10:20	AMERICAN HAUNTING PG13 1:50,3:50,5:50,7:50,9:50	THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30

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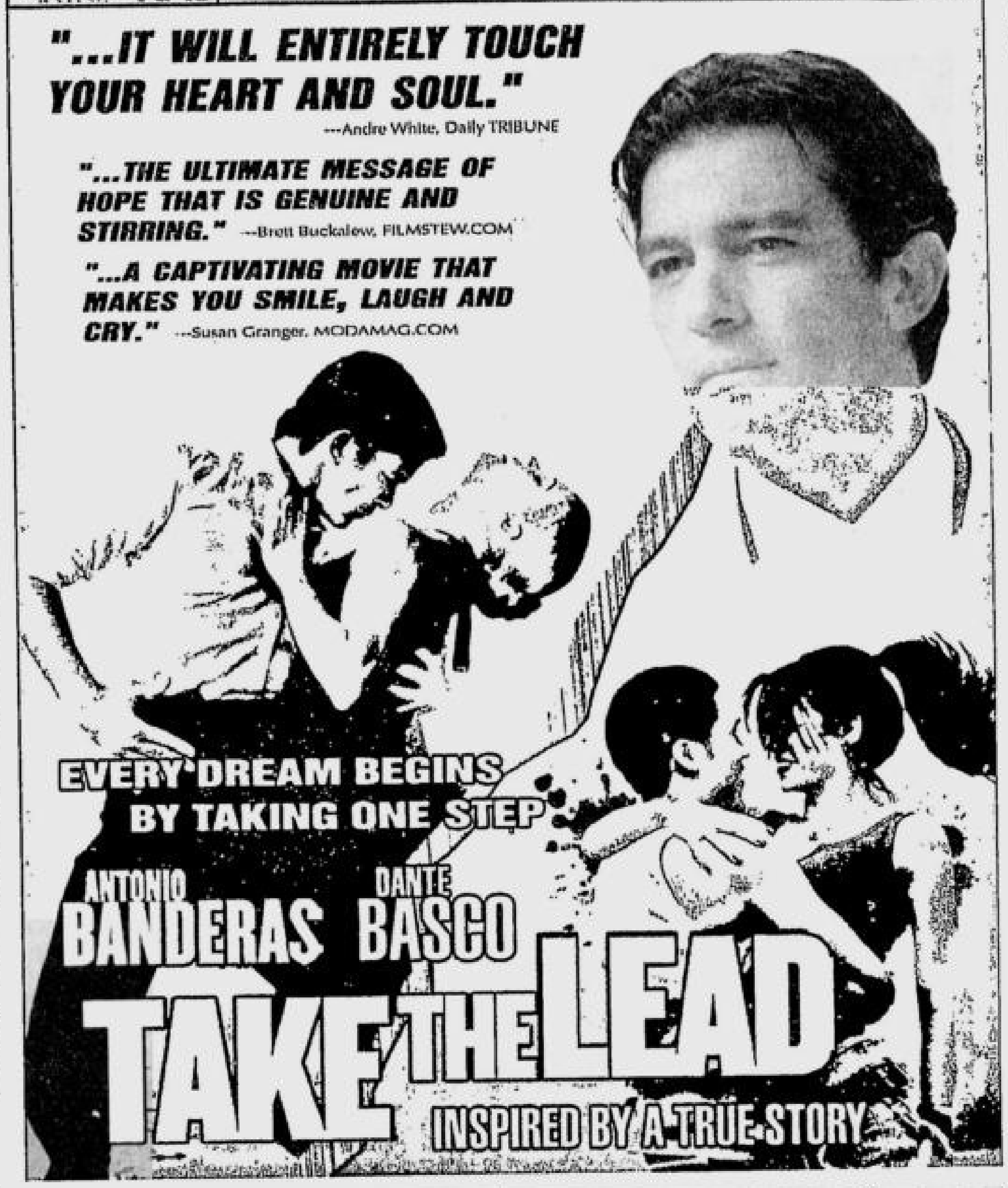

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CARS 11:00 / 1:30 / 4:00 / 7:30 / 9:00	AMERICAN HAUNTING 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45	OMEN 666 12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:35 / 10:00	
TAKE THE LEAD 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 INSIDE MAN 7:30 / 10:00	THE DA VINCI CODE 7:00 / 10:00 X MEN 3 12:30 / 2:45 / 4:40	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 1:00 / 3:15 / 5:30 / 7:45 / 10:00	GARFIELD 2 12:25 / 2:35 / 4:45 THE LAKE HOUSE 7:15 / 9:25

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1	KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45	2	THE LAKE HOUSE 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35	3	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 11:50 / 2:05 / 4:20 / 6:35 / 8:50
4	AMERICAN HAUNTING 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	5	GARFIELD 2 12:15 R3 / 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:20 / 8:30		DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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Touch of camp

By Noelani Torre

IT'S AN INNOCUOUS ENOUGH SCENE: A woman spraying a hanging plant, hardly a sight to strike terror in your heart. Except for the fact that she just happens to be standing on top of a table near the edge of a balcony, and her son—who, by the way, is evil incarnate—just happens to be wheeling around on a little red tricycle nearby.

Boy and tricycle crash into the table, mommy falls, and the entire sequence becomes one of the classic scenes in the history of horror movies.

Original

In fact, even if you haven't seen the original movie—1976's "The Omen"—you'll no doubt find the evil little boy and his tricycle familiar, as you would other pop-culture horror icons like Jason and Chuckie.

Aside from this son-of-the-devil character—who's literally the Antichrist—this movie is also responsible for bringing the triple "6" into popular consciousness, and spawned a number of B-movie sequels.

Though it has a different director (John Moore) and a different cast, the writer (David Seltzer) remains the same.

The story doesn't change. Liev Schreiber is the pedigreed Robert Thorn, an American diplomat in Rome, whose wife Kate (Julia Stiles) gives birth to a stillborn child. A priest in the hospital urges him to adopt an orphaned newborn as a substitute and, without telling his wife, he does so.

The Thorns raise Damien (the alternately angelic and sinister Seamus Davey Fitzpatrick) in England, and they slowly realize that their child isn't quite normal.

There's nothing wrong with the story—it was a good yarn 30 years ago, and it still is now—but, modernizing updates aside, everybody speaks practically the same lines. The changes made are too slight to be compelling.

Fine performances

Schreiber, Stiles, and the British actors (Postlethwaite, Thewlis and Michael Gambon) deliver fine performances, but you wonder what drove them to accept this movie.

FITZPATRICK. Alternately angelic and sinister.

If there's anything original in the 2006 version, it's the casting of Mia Farrow (you know, Rosemary in "Rosemary's Baby") as the nanny/apostate from hell. She gives "The Omen" that touch of camp that it sorely needs.

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2 GARFIELD 2
12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 10:50
GP

3 CARS
11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
G

4 LAKE HOUSE
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
GP

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3 CARS
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11.40, 2.15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT
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Perfection

WHEN WE EMBARK on an activity, we want to excel at it. Reason: It's natural to seek perfection. This is best fulfilled when we establish a loving relationship with the Supreme Being.

We suffer from fear and loneliness, and from lack of love, security and peace. To be truly happy, we need this special relationship as we bathe in God's love. In this condition, there is no fear or loneliness, only perfect shelter.

Rituals

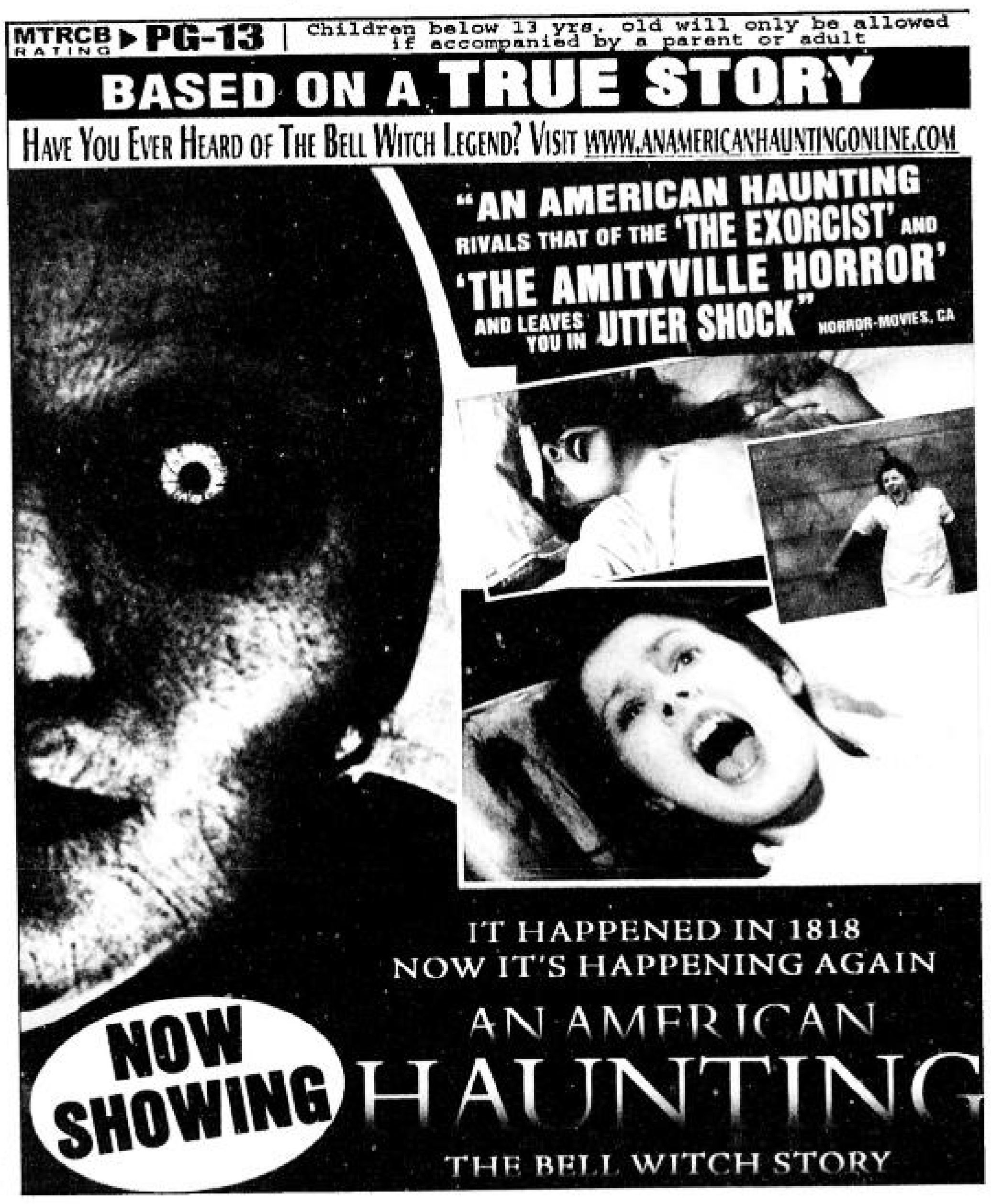
For some, spiritual perfection means rigorously practicing religious ceremonies and rituals. In their estimation, they think this is achieved by saying prayers, donating more money, or memorizing scriptural quotes. They think perfection is synonymous with being sinless and error-free.

But, a person does not need to be a perfect preacher, parent, spouse, businessman or worker to love God. Spiritual perfection means having complete faith: "In spite of my imperfections, God loves me unconditionally. He understands me despite my shortcomings. He knows I am sinful, yet He loves me just the same."

Weaknesses

People often spend time running away from God to hide their weaknesses. This attitude is caused by lack of faith and trust in God. There's no need to hide our imperfections—the act itself is futile and pointless.

We simply need to do our best to serve the Supreme Being and humbly offer this devotion to Him. It is our love that attaches us to the Supreme Person. Our love for the Almighty makes our lives truly perfect.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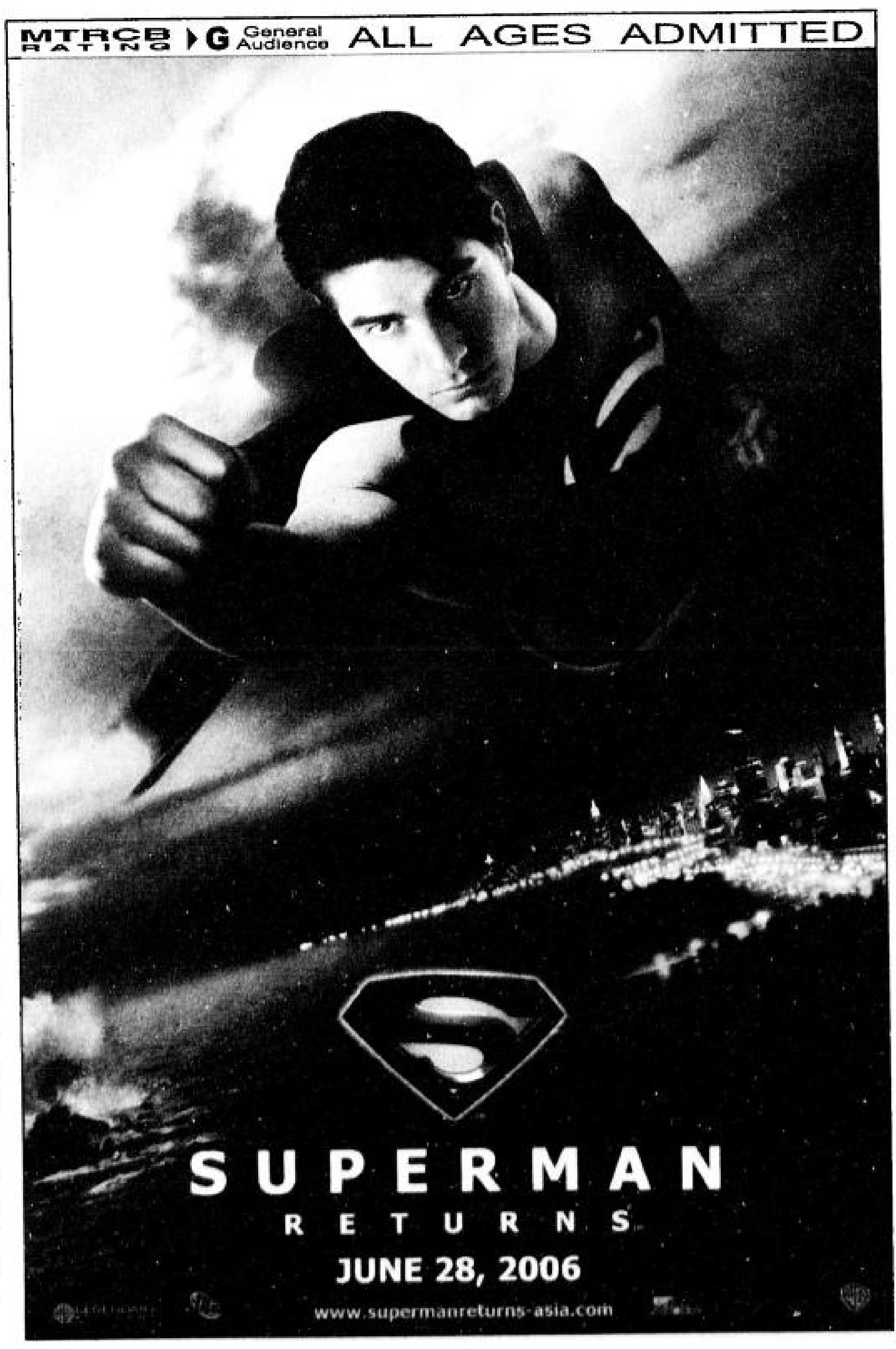
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STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

Special forum

THE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION of the Philippines' Franco G.V. del Rosario, announces a dinner-forum for CEOs and business leaders that will feature Dr. Rick Warren, author of the best-selling book, "The Purpose-Driven Life," on July 25, 6 p.m. at the Makati Shangri-La.

Leaders

According to Franco, Warren wants to reach out to leaders of the local business community, who play a key role in national transformation. MAP will host Warren's special forum on "Stewardship of Influence and Affluence."

WARREN. Author of "The Purpose-Driven Life."

Del Rosario believes that Dr. Warren's talk will greatly influence participants to make a difference in their respective fields.

Warren's wife, Kay, will talk about "Supporting a Spouse of Influence" on July 24 at noon at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

Her books include "Private Lives of Public People" and "Defusing Conflict in Relationships."

Call 751-1147 to 52, or email mapsec@globenet.com.ph.

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Female . . .

From page A3-1

sassiest show biz foray yet, in a medium—recording—where her megastar-mom reigns supreme. In the sensual "Roses," she limpidly delivers a laconic line ("The roses in your tongue passed through my lung…") that reminds you of Madonna's "Justify My Love."

With a multi-genre musical tapestry setting the mood for each woman's "confession," the album's sizzling cuts string Tuason's prose and poetry in terse, fluid verses that showcase female celebrities in a different light: A sultry Izza Calzado talks about "Eye Contact," Cindy Kurleto warns against "wolves" in sheep's clothing, Angel Aquino reeks of earthiness in "Your Lips in Mine 2," and "Hollywood Dreams'" big winner, Julia Clarete, sparks up a fiery, Bjork-like rendition of "Eve."

"Romancing Venus 2," on the other hand, attempts to explore more relevant issues: "Pinoy Big Brother's" Mich Dulce delivers "Chew" with turgid tenacity ("Tasting the strange dripping of your leaving so soon, I chose to speak without a sound, trailing the same path . . . chewing with more tissue and pain…"); zany comedienne Giselle Sanchez hams it up in "Burn";

Versatile

Anabel Bosch sings a soul-stirring rendition of the noirish "Heart Beat" ("Silence killed the heart of steel, fragile at the feel of a soul in disguise under the slice of pride . . . True love is its only passage back to life); Karel Marquez shows off her Avril Lavigne pipes in "Ripples," and the versatile Pinky Amador glides effortlessly from spoken words to warbling.

Some curious tracks: Aimee Marcos discusses a destructive relationship in "Dreams"; Margarita Holmes recites "Hands 1" while a sampling of Michael Franks' "Lady Wants to Know" is played in the background, and Loren Legarda awkwardly narrates the stilted "Forces," about the uphill struggles of the modern woman.

Best cuts

The best cuts belong to Beng Calma's "Bride" ("Do not save me from this plunging flight carried by your foresight");

Cynthia Culig-Guico's "Deep Sleep," which combines ruminative poetry and classical singing ("Your whispered lullaby echoed beneath the formless shape of my being"), and "Song of Songs 3:1-4," by Juddha Paolo, ironically the *only* guy in an exhilarating bevy of wonderful women, who contemplates about the female gender's thoughts and dreams that are found—and realized—in "Romancing Venus." *Visit www.venusinorbit.com.*

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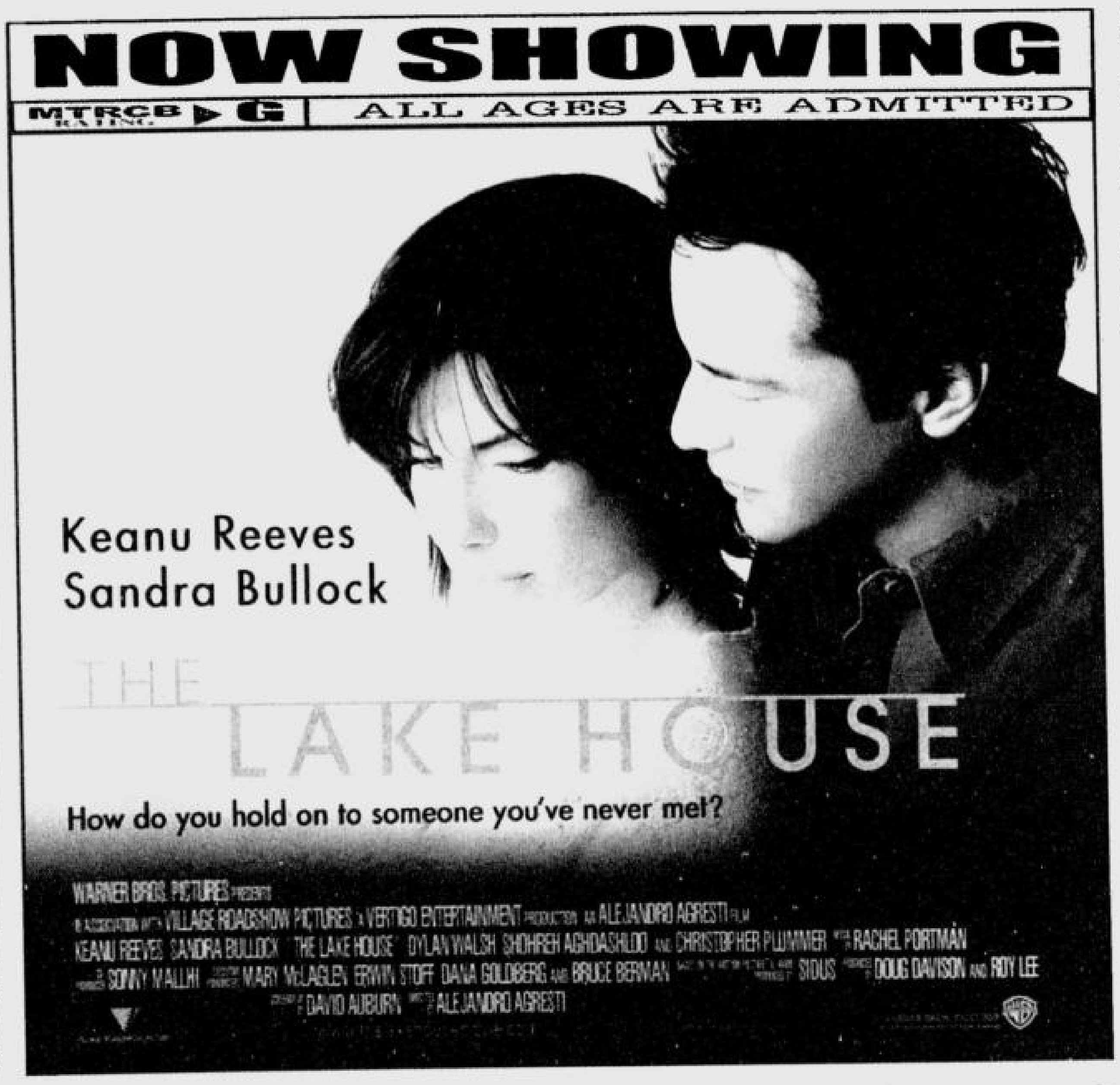

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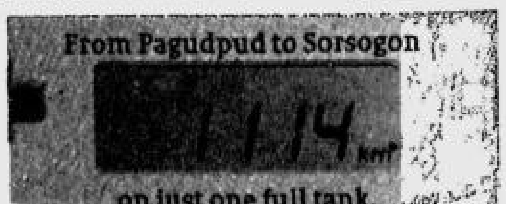
From Pagudpud to Sorsogon



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Gov't paid more dues, borrowed less in May

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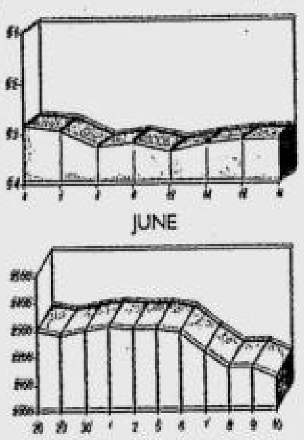


(See stock market report on Page B5)

P53.115 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 16, 2006

¥114.74 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 16, 2006

GOLD: $574.30-574.80

per ounce Hong Kong, June 15, 2006

Shares closed 1.9% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 1.91 percent higher as investors chased bargains for a second straight day, inspired by Wall Street's rally and the government's improved fiscal outlook, dealers said. They said it was positive that, after a volatile week, the market had recovered much of the ground lost on

SHARES/ B2

Tight spending makes up for shortfall in tax collection

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT'S NET FINANCING STOOD at negative P24.968 billion in May, showing that it paid more obligations than it borrowed during the period.

The national government's financing position last month was a complete reversal of the P51.96-billion net borrowings during the same period last year.

The negative borrowings in May was attributed to the government's underspending during the month, coupled with the move of the Bureau of the Treasury to cancel several auctions for Treasury bills and bonds because of rising interest rates.

The underspending was meant to compensate for the shortfall in tax collection. In May, the Bureau of Internal Revenue only collected P61.7 billion in taxes. The bureau was supposed to collect P62.23 billion.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the government paid and redeemed P76.845 billion worth of Treasury bills and bonds during the month, while domestic issuance of government securities only reached P52.533 billion.

On the external side, the government only borrowed P4.989 billion, while it paid off P5.663

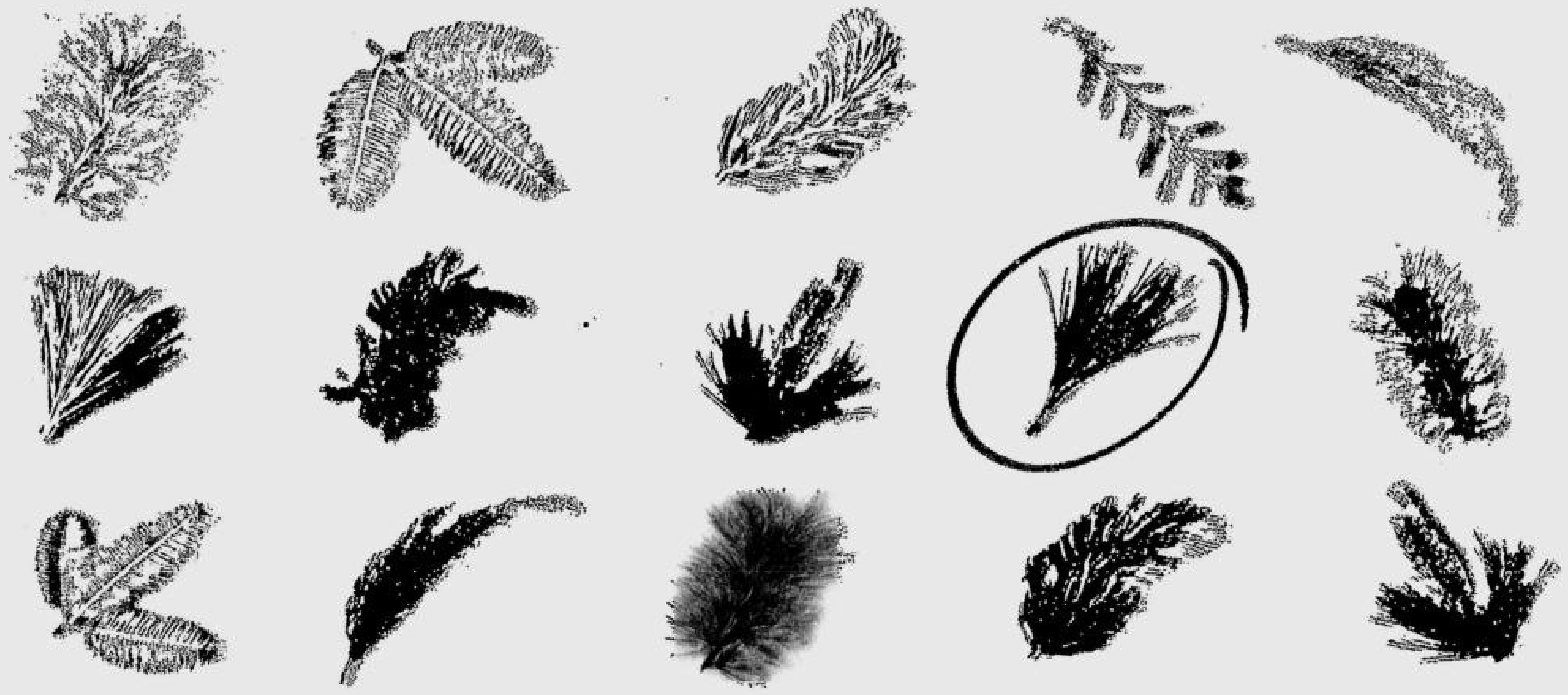
GOV'T/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

RP posts $36-M BOP shortfall /B2

ADB to lend $1.5B to RP for power sector dev't /B4

Brittany



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RP posts $36-M BOP shortfall

January -May surplus of $1.81B still higher than $1.64B in 2005

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOR THE SECOND MONTH IN A row, the country incurred a balance of payments shortfall of $36 million in May due to huge debt repayment outflow, particularly for the government's Brady bond buyback, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

The BOP deficit in May—which coincided with the regional sell-down on emerging markets' assets that month—marked a turnaround from the $751 million surplus posted in the same period last year. But last month's shortfall was lower than the April deficit of $277 million.

"The May BOP (deficit) was mainly due to debt payments, particularly the redemption of Brady bonds," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

With large surpluses built up in earlier months, however, Tetangco said the January to May cumulative surplus was still significant at $1.81 billion, higher than $1.64 billion in the same period last year.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

Any transaction that gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident like importation or debt servicing is a deficit item in the BOP, while any transaction that results in receipt of foreign exchange such as borrowing, exporting or inward remittance is a surplus item.

Taking advantage of the sharp peso appreciation in earlier months, the Philippine government replicated the debt management tack pursued by Latin American countries that had bounced back from fiscal woes, such as Brazil, Mexico and Colombia, by retiring $411 million or 53 percent of its remaining Brady bonds last month.

The Brady bonds were named after Nicholas Brady, the Treasury chief of the United States during the term of President Ronald Reagan who proposed the issuance of these bonds to help heavily indebted countries like the Philippines restructure their commercial bank debts.

The government decided to refinance the Brady bonds with proceeds from domestic borrowings.

Despite outflows from the Brady bond buyback, however, the country's gross international reserves surged to a record-high of $20.94 billion as of end-May from $20.85 billion at end-April.

Since the start of the year, the country's BOP has been supported by the national government's increased foreign exchange deposits with BSP from its bond sales and project loans, the BSP's own foreign exchange operations, inflows from foreign private investments and overseas Filipino workers remittances.

Banks' exposure to bad consumer loans down

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE RATIO OF SOURED CREDIT card and auto loans to the total exposure of banks in these sectors went down in the first quarter of the year from year-ago level, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The banking system's past due credit card receivables eased to 19.98 percent as a ratio of total plastic receivables in the first quarter from 21.67 percent a year ago, as growth in lending outpaced the rise in the past due portion.

The ratio of past due auto loans improved to 4.7 percent from 5.9 percent in the same period, as new vehicle lending sharply increased while bad auto loans dropped.

The BSP reported that credit card receivables expanded by 13.77 percent to P78.8 billion versus the first quarter of 2005, dwarfing the 4.91 percent increase in past due receivables to P15.75 billion.

The BSP's first quarter report covered the credit card and auto loan exposure of universal, commercial and thrift banks in the country.

The P15.7 billion past due credit card receivables represented 8.2 percent of the total nonperforming loans of universal, commercial and thrift banks during the quarter, which was better than the 8.4 percent in the previous quarter. This was at 6.2 percent a year ago.

The proportion of credit card receivables to the combined total loan portfolio was pared down to 4.5 percent from 4.7 percent last quarter but was higher than 4 percent a year ago.

The banks' auto loan exposure amounted to P62.3 billion in the first quarter, 12.6 percent higher than a year ago and also 1.8 percent more than a quarter ago.

In the meantime, past due auto loans fell to P2.92 billion during the period from P3.2 billion a year ago.

The quarter's past due auto loans represented 1.5 percent of the banking system's reported non-performing loans, better than the previous quarter's 1.6 percent but higher than a year ago's 1.3 percent.

Rules on securities borrowing, lending OKd

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXchange Commission has approved the rules proposed by the Philippine Stock Exchange on securities borrowing and lending (SBL).

The SBL rules allow the lending of securities from an investor's portfolio to support trading strategies.

PSE president Francis Lim earlier said SBL transactions allowed a lender to earn extra incomes from his or her stocks outside of their dividend yield.

"Lending out the shares provides the lender an extra income and, at the same time, the borrowed stock creates a cover or hedge for the borrower against a failed trade," Lim had said.

The SBL rules require the registration of the contract—called the master securities lending agreement or MSLA—with the Bureau of Internal Revenue for tax-exemption. To be signed by the securities borrower and lender, the MSLA sets the terms, conditions and rights of each party, as well as the mechanics for the recall or return of the borrowed stock.

The rules also compel the borrower to put up a collateral in the form of cash, stocks and government securities, whose value must correspond to at least 105 percent of the market value of the borrowed stock.

The PSE rules allow the transfer of the borrowed securities title to the borrower.

Lim said this was crucial because the borrower must be able to have an exercisable and unconditional right to vest the securities to the buyer. The lender, however, should have the contractual right to receive all benefits that would accrue to the securities even while they are on loan.

Gov't paid more ...

From page B1

billion in matured liabilities.

Domestic borrowings are undertaken through the issuance of T-bills and bonds, while foreign borrowings are usually sourced through official development assistance (ODA) extended by multilateral and bilateral agencies, and floating of sovereign bonds in the international market.

For the first five months of the year, the government's net borrowings stood at P94.011 billion. This accounted for about 63 percent of the P150-billion ceiling set under the government's fiscal program for the entire year.

Treasury officials earlier decided to cancel one T-bill and three bond auctions, giving up P13.5 billion worth of potential borrowings.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz earlier said it was prudent to stay out of the market for a while and wait until it settled down before borrowing again to get reasonable interest rates.

The Treasury resumed auctions early this week.

The rise of domestic interest rates was influenced by the volatile international capital market, which expects the US Federal Reserve to raise its key rates anew. An increase in US Fed rates will make US bonds more attractive, resulting in higher risk premiums for bonds issued by emerging economies like that of the Philippines.

Because of underspending, the government was still able to post a budget surplus of P5.8 billion in May, despite the shortfall in tax collection.

Under the 2006 fiscal program, the government was supposed to spend P89 billion in May, but it only spent P83.9 billion.

Shares closed ...

From page B1

prospects of higher US interest rates and lower growth.

The composite index rose 39.67 points to 2,121.47, after trading between 2,081.80 and 2,153.11. Volume was 1.35 billion shares worth P1.32 billion ($24.90 million).

The broader all-shares index rose 18 points to 1,343.26.

Gainers led losers 72 to 22, with 35 stocks unchanged. *AFP*

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MCLE Credit Hours*	Subject
Friday, July 7, 2006	
Three (3) Units 8:00 to 11:00 AM	**A Survey of Supreme Court Decisions on Commercial Law in 2005** (Updates on Jurisprudence) – Rafael A. Morales
Three (3) Units 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM	**Back to Basics in Ethics** (Legal Ethics) – Mia G. Gentugaya
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	**A Legal Perspective – Opportunities, Challenges and Risks for Foreign Investors in the Philippine Mining Industry** (MCLE-prescribed subject: Land and Economics) – Marilyn A. Victorio-Aquino
Friday, July 14, 2006	
Three (3) Units 8:00 to 11:00 AM	**Update on Labor Law: Recent Jurisprudence, Laws, Rules and Regulations** (Updates on Laws & Jurisprudence) – Dante T. Pamintuan
Three (3) Units 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM	**Rules and Cases on Bar Discipline** (Legal Ethics) – Ramon G. Songco
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	**Foreign Investments in the Philippines** (MCLE-prescribed subject: Transnational Business Transactions) - Rocky L. Reyes
Friday, July 21, 2006	
Four (4) Units 8:00 to 12:00 AM	**Pleading Writing and Oral Advocacy** – Carlos Roberto Z. Lopez
Two (2) Units 1:00 AM to 3:00 PM	**Problem Areas and Issues Affecting Philippine Construction Arbitration** (Alternative Dispute Resolution) – Emmanuel M. Lombos
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	**A Survey of Supreme Court Decisions on Civil Law in 2005** (Updates on Jurisprudence) – Philbert E. Varona
Friday, July 28, 2006	
Four (4) Units 8:00 to 12:00 AM	**Trial and Pre-Trial Skills in Criminal and Maritime Cases** (Trial and Pre-Trial Skills) Mario E. Ongkiko & Domingo G. Castillo
Two (2) Units 1:00 to 3:00 PM	**Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights** (International Law) – Vicente B. Amador
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	**Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Philippines** – Ricardo Ma. P.G. Ongkiko

* Rule 5, Sec. 1, Bar Matter 850 – Credit hours are computed based on actual time spent in an educational activity in hours to the nearest one quarter hour reported in decimals. (The schedule of each session includes registration and break.)

(1) (a) Attendance at more than 2 days of sessions or the full course of 4 days: P10,000
(b) Attendance at no more than 2 days of sessions: P6,000
(c) Attendance at no more than 1 day of sessions: P3,000
(d) Attendance at any lecture will be considered attendance for a full day session for purposes of the registration fee.
(e) For item (a) above, a 10% discount will be given to early registrants (those who register and pay on or before Friday, June 23, 2006), clients of the Firm, and SyCip alumni, and a 15% discount for a group of 10 or more participants who shall register and pay simultaneously. In case more than one type of discount is applicable, only one type of discount can be availed of.
(2) The Registration Fee includes morning and afternoon snacks, lunch, lecture materials, and the MCLE Certificate of Attendance
(3) Payment should be in cash or check payable to SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan. Except for the early registrants, all check payments must be delivered at least 5 working days prior to the date of the first lecture to the SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan Office, 4th Floor 105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
(4) We reserve the right to reschedule any or all of the lectures if warranted by reasons beyond our control

For more information, please call Ms. Joyce L. Rozul at 817-98-11 or send your inquiries by fax to 817-38-96, or mcle@syciplaw.com

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Invitation to Apply for Pre-qualification to Bid

Project ACCESS – Accelerating Community Electricity Services using Solar

1. The Government of the Philippines is implementing the "Expanded Rural Electrification Program" which aims to achieve the goal of 100% barangay (village) electrification by 2008 and 90% household electrification by 2017. The Department of Energy (DOE) and its partners has developed new approaches for the implementation of electrification projects in order to enhance sustainability, increase focus on public-private partnerships, use innovative financial incentives and subsidy schemes, and encourage local participation and ownership.
2. The Government, in partnership with the private sector donors and support from the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), announces the launch of **Project ACCESS**. This project in its first phase will provide electricity services for public facilities, households and other establishments using solar photovoltaics (PV) to benefit people in 55 barangays in remote areas in the Provinces of Aklan, Masbate, Northern Samar and Palawan.
3. The Project ACCESS now calls for the submission of letters of intent and pre-qualification documents from prospective bidders to apply for eligibility to bid. Contracts will be awarded for multiple lots of clustered barangays for the supply and maintenance over five (5) years of PV systems in public facilities coupled with obligations to sell PV systems to households in the same areas for which subsidies and financial incentives are available
4. The pre-qualification requirements are described in the Project ACCESS pre-qualification documents which may be requested at the address provided below or downloaded at the www.doe.gov.ph website under the Rural Power Project heading.
5. The Project reserves the right to accept or reject any application, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all application at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.
6. Interested potential bidders must submit their letters of intent and pre-qualification documents on or before **15 July 2006; 5:00 pm (Manila time)** at the address specified below. Interested bidders may also obtain further information from the contact information provided from 9:00 to 5:00 pm.

Bids and Awards Committee
Project ACCESS
CTC Building, 2232 Roxas Boulevard,
1300 Pasay City, Philippines
Facsimile Nos. (632) 573-4814

(PDI–July 17 & 18, 2006)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 16, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	16,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33	33	32	32.5	112,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48.5	46.5	47	3,535,300
China Banking Corp.	870	870	870	870	100
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	1,600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,310,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	72.5	73.5	72	73.5	330,800
International Exch. Bank	41	41	41	41	14,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	33	31.5	32.5	1,492,200
Philippine National Bank	31	32	31	32	22,500
Phil. Savings Bank	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18	17.75	18	48,000
Security Bank Corp.	46.5	46.5	45	45.5	444,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	23,700
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
ATR Kimeng Fin. Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	199,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31.5	31	31.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1700	1700	1700	1700	160
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	200,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2020	2020	2020	2020	230
Ivantage Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	3,350,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43	43	42.5	42.5	124,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	44	42.5	43	1,316,900
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	700
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.5	21	21	111,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.1	7.2	7	7.1	1,635,000
Petron Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.55	3.6	6,345,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	250,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	30,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32.5	33	31.5	31.5	999,500
Pancake House Inc.	3.5	4.5	3.5	4.1	223,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	577,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	64.5	63.5	64.5	120,900
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	70	71	131,800
Universal Robina Corp.	19	19.25	18.75	19	3,533,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	250,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	650,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,194,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	2,958,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	10,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.075	0.07	0.0725	3,800,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.25	180,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	72,000,000
Ayala Corp.	360	362.5	350	350	289,140
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.46	0.48	0.45	0.48	1,230,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	267,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	10,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.14	2.14	2	2	831,000
APC Group Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.195	400,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.91	0.91	920,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.48	1.4	1.44	125,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.8	11,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.04	1	1	4,180,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.85	3.75	3.75	332,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.9	76,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	5,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	131,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	440,000
SM Investments Corp.	213	213	211	212	7,970
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	50,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12	12	11.25	11.75	11,755,300
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.08	1.02	1.08	7,348,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.92	3,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.4	130,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.15	250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	6,210,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.8	0.8	150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.3	1.3	11,679,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.44	1.44	25,976,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.2	0.2	8,020,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	600,000
Primex Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	65,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10	10	10	10	46,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	3,310,000
SM Development Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	215,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	7,751,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	80,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.06	0.065	4,900,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.12	1.26	1.12	1.26	52,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.16	1.18	1.14	1.16	[illegible]
Globe Telecom Inc.	900	930	900	930	61,770
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	7,424,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1890	1890	1800	1805	58,940
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18	1,210,000
Ionics Inc.	2.1	2.24	2.1	2.24	1,343,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.031	213,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.75	3,963,500
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	60,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesita Phils Hotel Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	510,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.36	57,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	8,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	1,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.57	0.57	1,090,000
EDUCATION					
iPeople Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3	309,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	2.02	1.98	2	370,000
Paxys Inc.	10	10	9.7	9.8	299,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	55,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6	6.2	6	6.1	995,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	15,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	24,330,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.32	8,050,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.021	111,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	39,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	327,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.1	3.35	3.1	3.35	19,279,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.2	3.35	3.15	3.35	20,398,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27.5	27	27.5	51,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	440,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	250,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	520,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.009	268,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	11,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.14	1,621,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.14	1,091,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	16.25	17	16.25	16.75	1,120,100
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14.5	14.75	14.25	14.75	135,200

DISCLOSURES

APC Group Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 17, 2 p.m., at the Discovery Suite, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

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STOCKHOLDERS of **Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc.** elected as directors Rolando Castro, Santiago Cua, Henry Cua Loping, Brigido Dulay, Jose Ferdinand Gulang, Osmundo de Guzman Jr., Alfonso Reyno Jr., Exequiel Robles, Benjamin Santos, Mariza Santos-Tan and Alejandro Saulog Jr. Luis Cariete and Co. was appointed external auditor for f2006-2007.

Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

June 16, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.792079	1.000000	53.1040
Japan	Yen	0.006901	0.008712	0.4626
United Kingdom	Pound	1.464317	1.848700	98.1734
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102043	0.128829	6.8413
Switzerland	Franc	0.643235	0.812084	43.1249
Canada	Dollar	0.712558	0.899604	47.7726
Singapore	Dollar	0.498163	0.628931	33.3988
Australia	Dollar	0.583354	0.736485	39.1103
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.101173	2.652731	140.8706
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211198	0.266638	14.1595
Brunei	Dollar	0.496601	0.626959	33.2940
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000107	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020641	0.026059	1.3838
UAE	Dirham	0.215649	0.272257	14.4579
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.262500	67.0438
ArgentinaPeso	0.257377	0.324939	17.2556	
Brazil	Real	0.351255	0.443459	23.5494
Denmark	Kroner	0.134189	0.169414	8.9966
India	Rupee	0.017283	0.021820	1.1587
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217008	0.273973	14.5491
Mexico	New Peso	0.069624	0.087900	4.6678
New Zealand	Dollar	0.491395	0.620386	32.9450
Norway	Kroner	0.127761	0.161298	8.5656
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013179	0.016639	0.8836
South Africa	Rand	0.115253	0.145507	7.7270
Korea	Won	0.000825	0.001042	0.0553
Sweden	Kroner	0.107788	0.136082	7.2265
Syria	Pound	0.015259	0.019264	1.0230
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024352	0.030744	1.6326
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000369	0.000466	0.0247

Asia urged to prepare for cut in US imports

Richer countries should buy more from poor neighbors, says Finance exec

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES IS CALLING ON ITS ASIAN neighbors to make a concerted effort to counter the threat of a possible cutback in imports by the United States from the region as it tries to reduce its ballooning trade deficit.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan said the Philippines, which exports a lot to the US, made the call during the recent meeting of members of the Asian Development Bank held in India.

"If they suddenly curtail the demand for imports, the exports of many Asian countries would be affected. What needs to be done is that Asian countries with high growth and savings should increase their domestic demand to open alternative markets for export," Tan said.

In April, the country sold $612.82 million worth of products to the US, making it the Philippines' third-biggest export market.

Tan said countries that could increase their imports of goods from neighboring countries in Asia include China, South Korea and Japan.

The US government earlier reported that its deficit in the trade of goods and services further rose to $63.4 billion in April from $61.9 billion in March, as its imports continued to outgrow its exports.

But economic officials said the question remained of "until when will the US government allow its trade deficit to increase." They said the US government might be forced to do a responsive more toward its increasing deficit soon, adding that exporting countries should be prepared.

An options is for relatively richer Asian economies to loosen up their trade regulations and allow the entry of more imports from their neighbors.

Aside from threats of a possible cutback in demand, the increasing interest rate in the United States has also stirred the international capital market to the disadvantage of emerging economies, especially in Asia.

The US Federal Reserve had implemented several hikes in its interest rates starting June 2004, and is expected to again raise its rate this month in its continued fight against inflationary threats.

Tan said the Philippines has urged its fellow Asian countries to strengthen its ties in formulating ways to counter the adverse effects of interest rate movements on their economies.

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ADB to lend $1.5B to RP for power sector dev't

Lender cites need to develop new sources to prevent crisis

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT Bank plans to lend as much as $1.5 billion to the Philippines until 2007 to fund several developmental programs, particularly in the power sector.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan said that if finalized, the amount would form part of ADB's official development assistance until 2007.

The focus on the energy sector came amid the pressing need to develop power sources and boost the trade of electricity to avert a possible power crisis.

Tan said the government proposed that $300 million to $400 million of the $1.5 billion be in the form of direct lending to the national government for various energy-related programs.

These may include strengthening of the capacity of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), he said.

The ADB also looks at allocating a portion of the $1.5 billion for a technical assistance program that will guide authorities on the efficient operations of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).

WESM is scheduled to start operations on June 23.

WESM will provide a common platform for the buying and selling of electricity by customers and power generators.

The Department of Energy said WESM would help create transparency and boost competition in the electricity sector.

But Tan said there was a need to provide security to power generators, as a spot market opens the risk of not being paid.

In this view, he said, the ADB was willing to provide a technical assistance on how to establish a risk-mitigating mechanism for the WESM.

"There must be some kind of insurance system to help ensure that the WESM operation is efficient. This is critical in helping make the power generation sector robust," Tan said.

The scheduled operationalization of WESM on June 23 followed the recent approval by the ERC of its regulatory guidelines, such as methodology for determination of price and market fees.

Aside from technical assistance on the WESM and a direct lending for the government, providing a credit guarantee for future borrowings to be undertaken by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) is also one of the suggested components of the $1.5-billion assistance program of the ADB for the Philippines.

PSALM, tasked with selling the country's power assets to the investors from the private sector, intends to raise capital through a bond float.

Tan said government authorities have sought the assistance from the World Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), the country's biggets ODA providers, to pursue other programs to develop the power sector.

The finance official said the World Bank, which was also finalizing its assistance program for the Philippines, had already expressed willingness to provide complementary financial support for the country's power sector.

The World Bank earlier said that it could provide a maximum ODA of $2.2 billion for the Philippines for the next three years if it improves its fiscal position and shows its capacity to absorb debts.

JBIC has yet to give a response to the proposal to support the Philippines' power sector through loans.

Unit of UK company eyes jatropha refinery

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

JATROPHA or tuba tuba seeds ready for processing into oil, which is used in the manufacturing of bio-diesel.
AQUILES ZONIO

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE local unit of UK-based D1 Oils Plc has expressed plans to put up a refinery in the country that will process jatropha into biodiesel, which will then be sold here and abroad.

Richard Torres, D1 Oils Philippines operations manager, said in a recent interview that the company wanted to first plant 5,000 hectares of land to jatropha before putting up the refinery.

The refinery will extract the oil in jatropha seeds and then process it to produce high quality bio-diesel.

Torres was here recently with Ab Van Peer, D1 Oils Southeast Asia chief agronomist and Ludette Rosales, the company's corporate business development in-charge.

During the visit, Torres also handed a P150,000 check to a local cooperative propagating jatropha, locally known as *tuba-tuba*.

Torres said General Santos has the largest tuba-tuba plantation in the country spanning 200 hectares.

Aside from having the biggest area planted to tuba-tuba, the city has also become the leading source of tuba-tuba seedlings for farmers in other parts of the country.

D1 Oils became interested in supporting tuba-tuba propagation here after a recent visit by a D1 Oils specialist from Kenya to a jatropha nursery owned by Jojo Tubao, who also manages the Socsksargen Unified Workers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SUW-MPC) here, a cooperative which has ventured in jathropa growing.

Shortly after the visit, SUW-MPC and D1 Oils signed a seed supply agreement.

Tubao said propagating tuba-tuba presented a good income opportunity to marginalized farmers.

Aside from being easy to propagate, he claimed that the plant grows almost everywhere—in sandy and saline soils and even in crevices.

Aside from being a renewable source of bio-diesel, tuba-tuba oil is also used in soap making, lubricants and candle.

Its protein content may be used as raw material for plastic and synthetic fiber.

It also has high medicinal value.

Its latex contains jatrophine, an alkaloid used in the manufacture of certain medicines.

Tuba-tuba oil cake is also rich in nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium and can be used as an organic fertilizer.

Tubao said that many people have become interested in growing tuba-tuba since it does not require large capital and grows fast.

"Officials of D1 Oils are very serious in making this project successful. They want the project to gain nationwide support to improve the lives of marginalized farmers and to make lands productive," Tubao said.

Mayor Labualas Mamansual of Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat said at least 8,000 hectares of land could be planted to jatropha in his town.

"This would attract rebels to give up their armed struggle," he said.

Gov't expects growth in trade with China

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS A boost in trade with China as Beijing has adopted new rules on allowing food, drink and cosmetic products into the mainland.

Local garments firms also inked a cooperation pact with partners in Guangdong.

Enrico Mariano, DTI Commercial Attaché in Beijing reported that starting last April 1, China had allowed the label registration of food, drinks and cosmetics to be done by local agencies at the port of entry.

The new rule did away with the old system of having new labels that would be introduced into the Chinese market be required to have the approval of the State Administration on Quality, Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine or the Beijing-headquartered national authority on products safety.

Under the old system, exporters faced long periods without feedback on their applications and a repeat of the process if their applications were rejected.

The decentralization of registration and approval of product labels is widely seen to hasten the entry of imports and jack up cargo volumes.

"We welcome this (move) because it means lower costs and reduced time to introduce Philippine exporters products in a market as big as China," Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said.

Also, an investment mission comprised of trade officials and executives of some 70 textile and garment firms resulted in the signing of a memorandum of cooperation between local firms and their counterparts in Guangdong province.

Emmanuel Ang, DTI Commercial Attaché in Beijing, said the pact would serve as an enabling platform for all future business cooperation between Chinese and Philippine textile firms.

"Investment prospects are high as shown in keen consideration of Chinese textile firms to (put up projects) in the country as well as the high level of support to Philippine textile companies from the Guangdong provincial government," Ang said.

Serafin Juliano, special consultant on textiles and garments, said there was an "exciting" window of opportunity for investments from China due to the good fit and complementation between the two industries in areas such as labor, capital and technology, resources and raw materials.

Data from the Chinese embassy in Manila showed that the Philippines accounted for $17.6 billion or about 13.5 percent of the $130 billion two-way trade between China and Southeast Asia.

Trade between China and the Philippines has been growing steadily in the past 15 years or so from $350 million in 1992 when the mainland had the upper hand with a surplus of $30 million.

In 2005, the Philippines exported $8.1 billion worth of goods—mostly electronics and semiconductors—to China more than what was shipped in from across the South China Sea.

Among the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Philippines' trade surplus had been growing the fastest at an average of 30 percent a year in the past 15 years.

Cojuangco gives cash to farmers

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—BUSINESS TYcoon Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. distributed P10 million in dividends to about 1,700 land reform beneficiaries of his landholdings during his 71st birthday last week in Pontevedra town, Negros Occidental.

Each of the workers received more than P5,000 in cash, which was handed to them during Cojuangco's birthday party inside Gallera de Pontevedra in Hacienda Balbina, Pontevedra, 50 kilometers south of here.

Pedro Bedayo, president of the ECJ Farm Workers Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative, said Cojuangco had been advancing dividends so that the beneficiaries would not have to wait until the corporation starts making money.

Cojuangco, chair of San Miguel Corp., and the land reform beneficiaries have formed a joint venture corporation that now runs the farms.

The Southern Negros Joint Venture Corp., co-owned by the workers and the family of Cojuangco, has taken over the operations of the farms covering 4,654 hectares that had been subjected to land reform.

The farms cover three cities—Himamaylan, La Carlota and Bago—and five towns—Hinigaran, La Castellana, Pontevedra, San Enrique and Isabela.

In a speech, Cojuangco thanked the beneficiaries for agreeing to co-own his landholdings.

"Some people may not agree with what I am doing. But I truly believe in what we are doing. Otherwise, we will not be doing this," he said.

Cojuangco also pointed out that there were a few things that must be done "if we were to alleviate our fellowmen from poverty."

HOP ON, HOP OFF. Tourism Secretary Joseph H. Durano (foreground) at the wheel of the new city tour bus. The 21-seater air-conditioned customized jeepney will be used for guided tours on three routes around the different attractions in the metropolis. With him are Sen. Richard J. Gordon (left) and Clang Garcia (right) of Hop On, Hop Off Travel.

Transco to proceed with ₱8-B line project

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION Corp. can proceed with the P8-billion Mindanao Backbone Transmission Project following the signing of agreements with two indigenous cultural communities.

Transco, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and two indigenous cultural communities signed last week in Cagayan de Oro Multipartite Memoranda of Agreements that formally resolved issues that indigenous groups had raised concerning the project.

The signing of the MOAs paves the way for NCIP's issuance of a Certification Precondition, which will allow the 230-kilovolt (kV) Abaga-Kirahon-Maramag-Bunawan transmission project to traverse around 45 kilometers of ancestral domain areas.

In signing the MOAs, Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz assured the indigenous communities that they would get their rightful share of economic development when the project is completed in December next year.

Under the MOAs, Transco will provide financial assistance to community development projects of affected tribal communities, avail of their services for line clearing works, give them employment priority, and grant compensation for property damages.

The tribal councils, on the other hand, will support Transco in managing, administering, regulating and undertaking the construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission line project.

NCIP, for its part, will ensure that all provisions of the MOAs are respected and implemented.

The National Economic and Development Authority Investment Coordination Committed approved the Abaga-Kirahon-Maramag-Bunawan project in March.

Cebu Pac goes to Dipolog

By Daxim L. Lucas

BUDGET AIRLINE CEBU PACIFIC Air Inc. started regular commercial flights to Dipolog City this week as the company's newly acquired aircraft allowed it to expand its domestic network.

The commercial service to the capital city of Zamboanga del Norte is the airline's second domestic destination to be inaugurated this year, after its flight to Laoag which started earlier this month.

In a press statement, the airline said it would fly to Dipolog thrice weekly with its new Airbus A319 aircraft at an "introductory fare" of P688 for one-way travel.

Cebu Pacific president and CEO Lance Gokongwei said the Manila-Dipolog service "reinforces the airline's commitment to strengthen local tourism in the country."

"Dipolog is known for numerous tourist spots like Dakak Beach and Dapitan Bay as well as its sardine industry," he said. "It also showcases year-round festivities and presents itself as one of the major trade hubs in Mindanao."

This service is part of the airline's expansion program as it continues to build up its new Airbus fleet.

At present, Cebu Pacific operates eight brand-new Airbus aircraft for its domestic and regional flights.

The Manila-Dipolog service departs Manila every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 11:45 a.m. arriving in Dipolog at 1 p.m. The same plane leaves Dipolog at 1:30 p.m. to return to Manila at 2:45 p.m.

"With the recent success of its 'Biyahe Na Zamboanga Peninsula' regional showcase and the 'Hudyaka Festival,' we believe that the 'Orchid City' of the Philippines can become a major gateway for tourism and business in Mindanao," Gokongwei added, explaining his airline's decision to fly to the city.

The airline's introductory fare is 77 percent cheaper than the prevailing airfare of other airlines serving the city.

The sale runs from June 15 to 22 only and is for travel from July 13 to Oct. 19, 2006. After this period, the year-round 'Go' fares to Dipolog will start at P868 for one-way travel, which is approximately 70-percent cheaper than the current airfare.

SE Asian stocks up as US inflation fears ease

Fed chief says expectations of price hikes have 'fallen back somewhat'

SINGAPORE—ASIAN STOCKS leapt yesterday, extending a recovery for a third straight day after a month of heavy losses, while gold, metals and oil gained on optimism that the US economy can withstand rising interest rates and commodity prices.

"Concerns about a slowdown in the US economy and inflation there are fading," said Susumu Abe, manager at Mito Securities' information and investment department.

But the dollar fell back against the yen and euro retreating from Tuesday's highest level in more than a month, amid worries that first-quarter US current account deficit data, due later, could again show a yawning gap.

New York crude oil held above $70 a barrel, rising for a third day. Spot gold topped $581 an ounce, surging almost 5 percent from the previous day's lows, and copper rose above $7,100 a ton after a 5.4-percent jump on Thursday.

The gains in stocks and metals, and expectations that the Bank of Japan could raise rates as early as next month, dragged Japanese government bonds lower, helping push up the yield on the key 10-year JGB by 4 basis points to 1.810 percent.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei stock average climbed 2.9 percent to 14,883.48 by midday, recovering some of its almost 20 percent slump since early April.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 2.2 percent, South Korea's Kospi jumped more than 3.5 percent and Australia's resource-heavy S&P/ASX 200 rose 2 percent.

The gains followed advances on Wall Street where the Nasdaq Composite Index jumped 2.8 percent and the Dow Jones industrial average closed 1.8 percent higher after Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke comments on the economy.

Bernanke toned down his warnings against US inflation, saying expectations of price increases had "fallen back somewhat" and that the impact of high energy prices on the economy has been limited.

Bernanke and other Fed officials had spooked stocks, metals and emerging market investors over the past month, leading to a rapid sell-off in risky assets, by repeatedly warning against the risks of rising inflation amid slowing US economic growth.

"Bernanke stopped his hawkish comments on US inflation and that's positive," said Choo Hee-yeop, deputy general manager of asset management strategy at Korea Investment and Securities.

"Now it looks like he's trying to put out the fire. His speech yesterday is not going to eliminate worries about inflation or interest rates, but at least in the short-term, it will be positive."

Talk of rising US rates was the biggest factor pushing the dollar to a five-week high against the yen and six-week high against the euro earlier this month.

But the capital inflows data on Thursday reignited talk that the dollar was set to falter. The US attracted just $46.7 billion in foreign capital in April, far short of that needed to cover the $63.4 billion trade deficit that month. *Reuters*

PANGILINAN now owns a total of 212,279 shares of PLDT. At yesterday's closing price, his hoard is now worth P384 million. REM ZAMORA

MVP buys more 'undervalued' PLDT shares

By Daxim L. Lucas

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE Co. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan continued to increase his personal stake in the firm, a few days after complaining that the market was undervaluing the country's largest telecommunications group.

Pangilinan added to his personal holdings of PLDT shares last Thursday—the bottom of an eight-day slide which saw the company's stock price drop 12 percent from P2,045 to P1,770 per share.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, PLDT said its chair bought an additional 500 shares of the firm last Thursday at P1,770 for a total outlay of P885,000.

This followed a similar purchase he made in early March and in mid-May of this year—both after warning that the company faced a more challenging business environment after years of frenetic growth.

According to the disclosure, Pangilinan now owns a total of 212,279 shares of the company. At yesterday's closing price, his hoard is now worth P384 million.

His purchases are widely interpreted by stock market watchers as a signal to investors that he was confident about the company's prospects, despite the sober scenario being painted by the PLDT management.

During its stockholders' meeting last Tuesday, Pangilinan expressed dismay at the performance of his company's share price which had hit three-month lows, leading a broader decline in the PSE index.

"[Our share price] doesn't reflect the fundamentals of PLDT, but more that global prices are retreating on inflation fears," he said.

He also warned that rising interest rates around the world will adversely affect revenues of the country's largest telecommunications firm as people adjust their spending patterns.

The resistance of local policymakers to following this trend has led to some degree of capital flight, pushing the peso lower against the US dollar, he said.

Pangilinan explained that a weak peso against the dollar fed inflation which, in turn, eroded the purchasing power of the Filipino consumer. Inevitably, PLDT's revenues will also suffer, he warned.

To mitigate this, he unveiled an aggressive plan to find new sources of revenues for the firm, and announced an increase in PLDT's dividend payout rate from 50 percent of net income to 60 percent, due mainly to its "healthy cash flows."

PLDT's share price rebounded yesterday, rising by P60 to end the trading session at P1,830 apiece. A total of P106.7 million worth of the company's shares changed hands.

Cement firm denies getting tax incentives

JAPANESE-OWNED TAIHEIYO CEMENT Philippines Inc. (TCPI) has clarified that it had never availed itself of tax incentives from the government as it had voluntarily sought the cancellation of its registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) following its purchase of Grand Cement Manufacturing Corp.

TCPI issued this statement in reaction to reports that it had been enjoying tax incentives through the cement firm it bought. Under the present system, incentives are given only to cement firms that are owned by Filipinos.

TCPI also refuted reports that it was fined by the BOI for its late disclosure in the change of ownership after taking over Grand Cement.

It explained that it was Grand Cement that was penalized P1.1 million by the BOI for filing its income tax holiday application two days late in May 1998. TCPI had to pay for the penalty after the BOI made the payment as a condition for the approval of the cancellation of its BOI registration.

"TCPI has always practiced diligence in complying with government requirements and has been very supportive of the goals set by the government agencies," TCPI said in a statement.

The Japanese cement company was even awarded by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) last year for its contribution to the tax agency's tax compliance drive and revenue collection efforts.

"As a player in the Philippine cement industry, TCPI is committed to maintain its policy on doing fair and proper business in order to contribute to growth," the company added.

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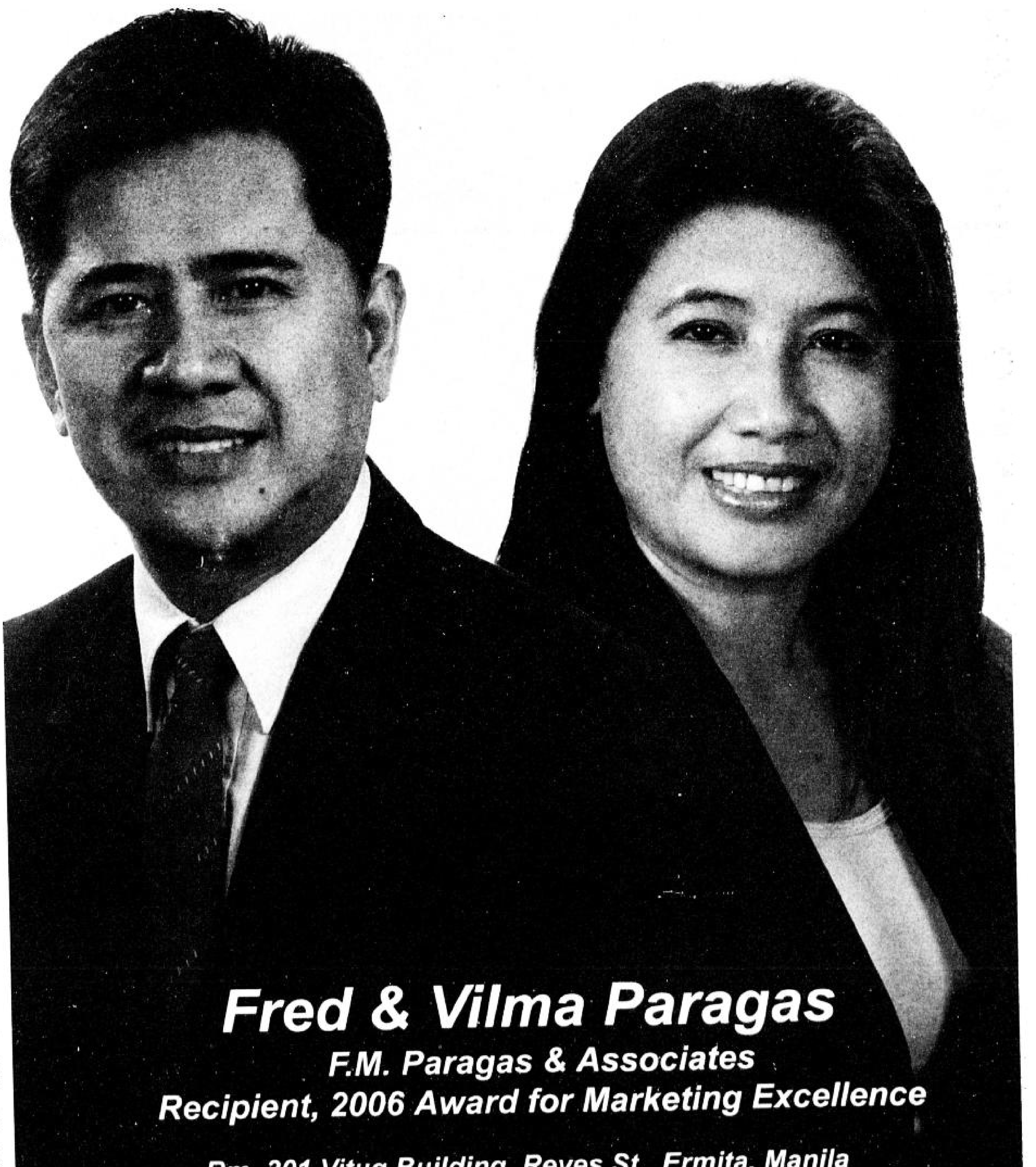

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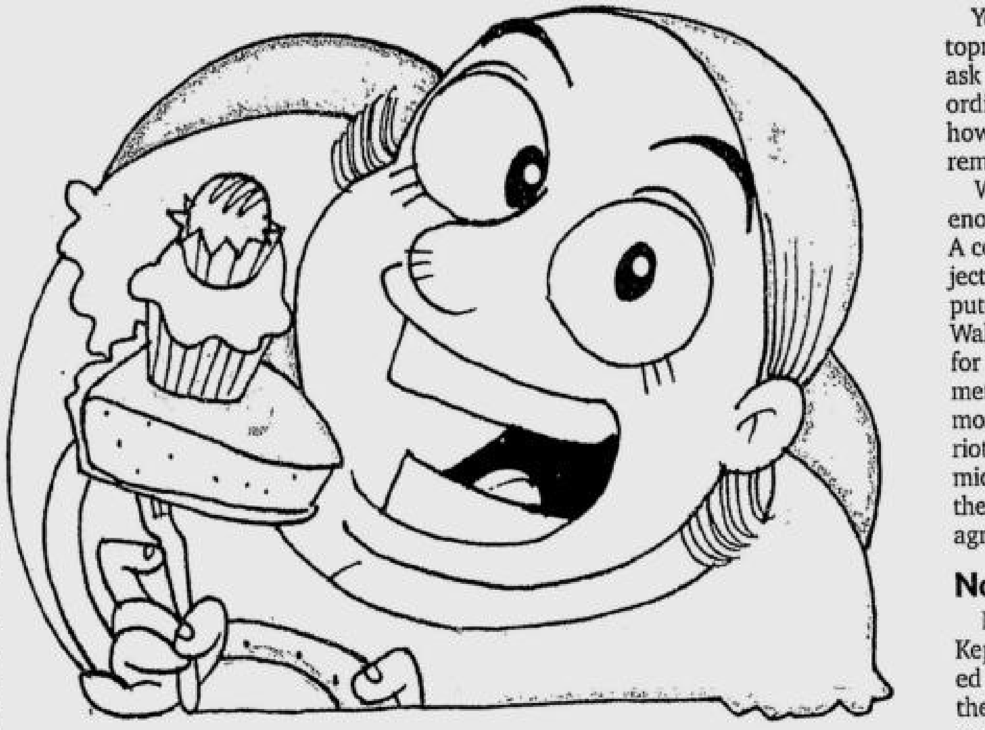
Targeting a new key in war vs obesity

By Charles E. Buban

PARIS—A SYSTEM IN our body that plays a role in the control of food intake and metabolic functions may be the latest battleground in the war on obesity.

"Studies have shown that when the endocannabinoid system is overactive, people eat more, leading to weight gain, increase in body fat and slowing down of the action of insulin. This sets the stage for diabetes and cardiovascular diseases," said Dr. Vincenzo Di Marzo, coordinator of the Endocannabinoid Research Group at the Institute of Biomolecular Chemistry of the National Research Council in Italy.

Di Marzo, who spoke here during a forum on cardiometabolic risk, said an overactive endocannabinoid system affects the brain in such a way that hunger increases and one is driven to desire for food. In the gastrointestinal tract, it interacts with other hormones causing one to also crave for more food.



All over the body

The endocannabinoid system was discovered in 1964. Researchers found that it is comprised of cannabinoid receptors located all over the body: in the abdominal fats, muscles, liver and brain as well as in the gastrointestinal tract and pancreas.

Researchers also found that it is a sort of stress-recovery system that lies mostly dormant for long stretches of time and is only activated when the body encounters stress. The system helps the body recover from a transient unbalanced situation such as if one experienced acute starvation.

Di Marzo said that when the receptors of the system are blocked, researchers believe this would help control an overactive endocannabinoid system, resulting in reduced weight as well as improving other related risk factors.

New drug

Several drugs are now being developed to block the endocannabinoid system, including rimonabant (developed by French pharmaceutical firm Sanofi-Aventis), that curbs appetite.

A recent study published in The Journal of the American Medical Association showed that people who took the drug were able to lose weight, maintain their weight loss, reduce the level of fats in the blood and fat deposits, and improve insulin action. This, in turn, reduced their risk factors for heart disease and diabetes.

The drug is awaiting approval in the European and American markets.

"This drug may provide a potent weapon in fighting obesity. But as studies about the endocannabinoid system and development of new drugs continue, lifestyle changes such as diet and exercise, are still highly recommended for people with weight problem since losing just 10 percent of body weight can be very effective in preventing risks," Di Marzo said.

Solving a math problem

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

OMAR TAPANG [OTAPANG@BEARINGpoint.net] writes: "I am a fan, and I am sending you an article in April 2004 on using computers for math proofs. I came from Ateneo, and I even sat in your lecture when you substituted for Dr. Marasigan's calculus class. This was a long time ago, but I still remember how you lectured while Dr. Francisco drew on the board."

Yes, my drawing skills are not exactly topnotch, and several years ago, I would ask Dr. Flor Francisco to graph polar coordinates on the board while I explained how they were done. It seems students remember our tandem.

What math news was astonishing enough to make it to the New York Times? A centuries-old problem, the Kepler Conjecture, was finally proved, but by a computer. In the 1590s, the adventurer Sir Walter Raleigh, while preparing his ship for an expedition, wondered which method of stacking cannonballs would be most efficient. His assistant, Thomas Harriot, came up with a solution (the pyramid), which he mentioned years later to the astronomer Johannes Kepler. Kepler agreed with this, but never proved it.

No error?

Many mathematicians tried proving Kepler's Conjecture, but no one succeeded until 2004, when Dr. Thomas Hales of the University of Pittsburgh harnessed computers to do various computations too tedious to be done by hand. Of course this assumes the computer did not commit any error in the first place.

Since the time of Euclid, proving has been supposed to be unambiguous and logical, a brilliant exercise of the human mind (remember geometry proofs in high school?) No wonder Hales' proof is controversial, and several mathematicians are not too happy about the situation.

Dr. Larry Wos of the Argonne Computer Laboratory strikes a compromise. He uses automated reasoning programs, where the computer sifts through many, many possibilities, but the human still needs to guide it. Wos says a human mind can never be replaced, but the advantage of computers is that they do not have preconceptions. Personally, I believe that if a computer can beat human chess grandmasters, then there is no reason it cannot solve problems which have eluded us for centuries.

Lack of sleep

Dr. Michael Muin of Pinoy MD [http://pinoy.md; mikemuin@gmail. com] writes, "Regarding your article on April 8. I read about sleep deprivation of doctors. There are a lot of articles on the web about the effects of sleep deprivation on doctors and medical errors. Most of them refer to these two articles, available online from the New England Journal of Medicine."

Effect of reducing interns' weekly work hours on sleep and attentional failures: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15509816

Conclusion: Eliminating interns' extended work shifts in an intensive care unit significantly increased sleep and decreased attentional failures during night work hours.

Effect of reducing interns' work hours on serious medical errors in intensive care units: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15509817

Conclusion: Interns made substantially more serious medical errors when they worked frequent shifts of 24 hours or more than when they worked shorter shifts. Eliminating extended work shifts and reducing the number of hours interns work per week can reduce serious medical errors in the intensive care unit.

Some doctors, especially residents, go on 72-hour duties with less than eight hours taken in chunks of 45 minutes to two hours. Oh well, such is the life of a doctor.

How the brain handles bilingualism

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IN A RECENT INTERVIEW with the San Francisco Chronicle to discuss their low-budget movie "Cavite," currently making the rounds of several film festivals in the United States, film maker Neill Dela Llana said that at one point in the movie, the kidnapper speaks to the hero in Tagalog, but the latter responds in English. He said this was not unusual, after all this is how he and his parents communicate.

Dela Llana's acknowledgment of his bilingualism highlights the fact that this ease of switching between languages is common to many Filipinos. In fact, it happens with such regularity, you're probably not even aware of it.

Studies have even suggested that being fluent in more than one language positively benefits your brain.

But have you ever wondered how your brain absorbs the different sounds, separates them into different languages, and then puts the response into the desired language?

35 bilingual subjects

It now appears that an answer may be found in the June 9 issue of the journal Science. Researchers from the University College London and Tokyo University led by neuroscientist Cathy Price collaborated to find out which portions of the brain are activated by bilingual activity.

They looked at data collected from 35 right-handed bilingual people, approximately two-thirds of whom were fluent German-English speakers based in London while the rest were fluent Japanese-English speakers based in Japan.

Using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and positron emission tomography (PET), the researchers were able to see which portions of the volunteers' brains were activated as they completed the tests.

Each volunteer was presented with several pairs of words that fell under a variety of categories. (Note: the following examples are representative and are not taken from the study itself.)

1) The words were in the same language and were related, for example: "soap" and "water."

2) The words were in the same language but unrelated, e.g., "soap" and "camel."

3) The words were in two different languages but were related, e.g., "*sabon* (soap)" and "shampoo."

4) The words were in two different languages but unrelated, e.g., "soap" and "*kabayo* (horse)"

Each participant read the word pairs as they were flashed onto a screen and noted if the words were related or unrelated. In deference to cultural differences among the German, English and Japanese, researchers modified certain word pairs for increased comprehension. For example, where the German-English speakers saw a card labeled "stag-REINDEER," the Japanese-English speakers saw "terrier-HUSKY."

Faster recognition

The researchers found that despite language differences, pairs of related words were recognized faster than pairs of unrelated words. Additionally, the fMRI and PET scans suggest that the left caudate, a small portion of the brain's left hemisphere, is activated when processing multiple languages and had a weaker response when word pairs were in the same language.

Previous studies have noted that the left caudate is involved in speech processing. Researchers on stuttering have found that high levels of dopamine in the left caudate block the neural pathways, impairing mind and mouth coordination.

Price et al.'s research suggests that the left caudate deserves further attention. It would also be interesting to see how language-processing portions of the brain behave during the kind of conversation Dela Llana described earlier. Would the left caudate be activated when the brain hears Tagalog and formulates a response in English, or would it remain dormant because only one language is used at a time? Hopefully that question will be answered by a future study.

Some stress during pregnancy may have benefits

PREGNANT WOMEN CAN stop worrying that the stressors and anxieties present in their hectic lives today may hurt their babies. A study by researchers from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore suggests that a bit of stress and anxiety during pregnancy may actually be beneficial.

In a study of 137 healthy, pregnant women with low-risk, normal pregnancies, researchers found that those who reported moderate levels of anxiety and stress between weeks 24 and 32 of pregnancy had children who were somewhat more advanced in their mental and motor development at age 2.

Overall, Dr. Janet DiPietro and her colleagues failed to see any ill effects of prenatal stress and anxiety on the children's emotional development and behavior.

The few existing studies that have examined the impact of stress during pregnancy on child health and development have "many flaws," DiPietro said, "including simply relying on asking mothers how their children behave. Maternal anxiety colors women's perceptions of their children such that stressed women more often report children to be more difficult."

The study found that children of women who reported more negative feelings about being pregnant had somewhat lower behavior and emotional scores.

But, overall, this study should put pregnant women's minds at ease and help them stop "worrying about worrying," DiPietro said.

There is a biological basis that explains the finding that moderate stress is not harmful and may be beneficial for the baby. Chemicals produced by stress have a well-known influence on organ growth and development, the authors note in the current issue of Child Development.

It should be noted, however, that the women in this study did not have significant mental health problems—they were not depressed and they did not have anxiety disorders—but rather reflect the range of "normal" stress and anxiety common to working women with multiple roles and responsibilities.

"It's possible the results would be different if the study had included women with more chronic, physical or severe stress in their daily lives," DiPietro said.

Reuters

Empathy for patients

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

EMPATHY FOR PATIENTS, ALSO referred to as a doctor's "bedside manners," is one learnable skill that probably makes average but empathetic doctors more effective healers than brilliant but insensitive medical practitioners. It's the "art" part of medicine, which is frequently neglected as a doctor focuses more on the science part.

Empathy is an important part of a doctor-patient relationship, wherein a doctor must be able to put himself into the patient's shoes and understand what the latter is feeling. It goes beyond making the right diagnosis and writing the best prescription for the patient.

Coined by German psychologist Theodore Lipps in the 1880s, the term empathy describes a process by which the doctor understands a patient's experience of being sick by vicariously sharing that experience while maintaining an observant stance so he can remain objective in his medical decisions. This is why attending to a seriously-ill patient can be physically, mentally and emotionally draining for a physician.

Curriculum lack

It's a pity that the medical curriculum does not devote sufficient teaching time for medical students to develop the skills for empathy. It has thus remained misunderstood and underused.

Health educators consider empathetic communication a teachable, learnable skill that has tangible benefits for both clinician and patient. It enhances the clinician-patient relationship which somehow alleviates the misery of being sick. Appropriate use of empathy as a communication tool facilitates the clinical interview, increases the efficiency of gathering information and makes the patient feel good.

"I feel honored the way my doctor is treating me," said a patient whose surgeon just removed a tumor from his colon.

Studies show that empathy improved health outcomes, led to better patient compliance and reduced medico-legal risk. A woman whose husband died after heart surgery said, "If only my husband's doctors showed empathy, I would not be filing a malpractice case against them."

Key steps

According to Dr. Frederic Platt, the following are the key steps to effective empathy:

1. Recognizing the presence of strong feelings in the clinical setting such as fear, anger, grief and disappointment.
2. Pausing to imagine how the patient might be feeling.
3. Stating one's perception of the patient's feeling (i.e., "I can imagine that must be..." or "It sounds like you're upset about...").
4. Legitimizing that feeling as valid and appropriate.
5. Respecting the patient's effort to cope with the predicament.
6. Offering support and partnership (i.e., "I'm committed to working with you to..." or "Let's see what we can do together to...").

Simple ways by which a doctor can show empathy are: explaining to the patient what his/her illness is and the rationale for the various medications prescribed, feedback on the effect of treatment, rendering appropriate touch, returning phone calls and making follow-up calls to check on his/her condition (without billing him/her for the calls).

Empathy is different from sympathy.

"It's not feeling sorry for a patient but understanding what they're going through," says Dr. Johanna Shapiro, a respected professor of family medicine in the United States.

In empathy, we "borrow" another's feelings to observe, feel and understand them, but not to take them onto ourselves. By being a participant-observer, we come to understand how the other person feels so we can help him/her better.

Sympathy involves sharing with the sufferer as if the pain belonged to both the patient and the doctor. We sympathize with others when we share and suffer with them. For the doctor to be more effective in helping his patient get well, he can't completely share the patient's plight. If he does, he would not be healthy enough nor his judgment be objective enough to help the patient.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines
EDET Project
Tender No. LCB - EDET - 01-06
Training Equipment, Tools and Accessories in Lots:

Lot 6b - Food Processing	Php 12,240,000.00
Lot 11 - Tourism	Php 10,060,000.00

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a credit from KfW towards the cost of the Expansion of Dual Education and Training (EDET) being carried out by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) it intends to apply this credit for payments under the contract for Eleven (11) lots for the Supply of Training Equipment, Tools, Publications. Computer, Audio-Visual Equipment, Furniture and Accessories.

TESDA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Training Equipment, Tools and Accessories. Delivery of the Goods to the TESDA Institutional sites shall be one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through limited bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION, 3rd Floor, TESDA Administration Building, TESDA Complex, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

TESDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **July 04, 2006** at 2:00 p.m., Aguino Room, Learning Center, TESDA Administration Building.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **August 08, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of:

- Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to 1% of ABC; or
- Bank Guarantee equivalent to 1½% of ABC; or
- Surety Bond equivalent to 2½% of ABC

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on **August 15, 2006**, 9:30 a.m. at the Aquino Room, Learning Center, TESDA Administration Building. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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(Deputy Director General, FO)
Chairman, BAC
TESDA Complex, TESDA Administration Building
East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No.: 817-40-76 to 80 and 893-8296
Fax No.: 817-90-40
E-mail: psd_ocsa@tesda.gov.ph
Website: www.tesda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) SECRETARY AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO
Director General

(PDI--June 17 & 24, 2006)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
SPECIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 928-5691 * Telfax No. (632) 922-2568 / (632) 920-2439

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), through its Special Bids and Awards Committee (*Committee*), is inviting interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Assignment of MWSS' Receivables and its Right and Obligation to Subscribe to 83.97% Equity in Maynilad Water Services, Inc.** (Transaction).

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures and shall be governed by applicable Philippine laws, rules and regulations. The bidding process for the Transaction shall have three (3) phases, namely: Phase 1 (Preparation Phase); Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase); and Phase 3 (Bidding Phase).

Interested parties may secure copies of the Bidding Documents, which include the Instructions to Bidders (ITB), at the Secretariat of the MWSS Special Bids and Awards Committee, located at the Sr. Deputy Administrator's Office, Ground Floor, MWSS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines, starting on **26 June 2006 until 10 July 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand US Dollars (US$5,000.00)**. The mode of payment shall be cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received by the interested parties themselves or their duly authorized representatives. All interested parties securing copies of the Bidding Documents shall be required to acknowledge receipt of the said Bidding Documents and to signify their acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Bidding Documents by executing the form attached to the Bidding Documents as Schedule 2 (Acknowledgment) and submitting the same to the Committee at the address given below no later than **2:00 p.m. of 21 July 2006**. Only those interested parties who purchased the Bidding Documents and submitted the Acknowledgment before the deadline provided therefor shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process Late submission of the Required Documents shall not be accepted.

Interested parties who have submitted the Acknowledgment within the deadline provided above shall submit the Required Documents enumerated in Clause 7.1 of the ITB to the Committee at the address given below no later than **2:00 p.m. of 21 July 2006**. The Committee shall inform the interested parties no later than 26 July 2006 if they are eligible to participate in Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction.

Interested parties who are found eligible to participate in Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction may secure copies of the Bidding Materials enumerated in Clause 8.1 of the ITB at the address given below starting on **26 July 2006 until 28 July 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand US Dollars (US$1,000.00). The mode of payment shall be cash or manager's check. The Bidding Materials shall be received by the interested parties themselves or their duly authorized representative. Only those interested parties who purchased the Bidding Materials shall be allowed to participate in Phase 2 (Pre-Qualification Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction as "Bidders".

The Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Documents enumerated in Clause 11.1 of the ITB to the Committee in accordance with Clause 12 of the ITB at the address given below no later than **2:00 p.m. of 11 August 2006**. The Committee shall inform the Bidders no later than 25 August 2006 if the said Bidders have pre-qualified and are eligible to participate in Phase 3 (Bidding Phase) of the bidding process for the Transaction. Only those Bidders who have pre-qualified and are deemed eligible to participate in Phase 3 (Bidding Phase) of the bidding process by the Committee shall be allowed to further participate in Phase 3 (Bidding Phase) of the bidding process as "Qualified Bidders". Late submission of the Eligibility Documents shall not be accepted.

The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled at **2:00 p.m. on 27 September 2006** at a place to be announced later.

Qualified Bidders must submit their Bid Proposals compliant with Clause 19 of the ITB to the Committee in accordance with Clause 21 of the ITB no later than **2:00 p.m. of 24 October 2006** at a place to be announced later. Late submission of Bid Proposals shall not be accepted.

The MWSS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid Proposals, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bid Proposals at any time prior to the award of the Transaction to the winning bidder, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

The MWSS assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify interested parties and/or bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their applications and bids.

(Sgd.) **OSCAR I. GARCIA**
Chairman
MWSS Special Bids and Awards Committee
Ground Floor, Engineering Building
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road,
Balara, Quezon City, Philippines

(PDI - June 17, 23 & 30, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
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East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member relations@sss.gov.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Ciriaca L. Abendaño	86 B P. Gomez St., Tacloban City	Pedro C. Abendaño SS#06-0374836-1	February 24, 2006
2) Edralin Abraham	Unknown	Tiburcio Abraham SS#03-3183028-2	September 4, 2000
3) Danilo Acosta	2981 Sto. St. Carmona, Makati City	Virginia Acosta SS#03-9481190-5	November 7, 2005
4) Alicia Q. Basada	Borongan, Eastern Samar	Zenon Basada SS#03-1377078-4	August 28, 2005
5) Cahrita U. Campo	Unknown	Paredes Campo SS#03-1616363-1	November 16, 2005
6) Pilar Vivar	41 3rd St. Salinas, Bacoor, Cavite	Reynaldo Carlos SS#03-3631149-0	September 5, 2005
7) Rosalinda Calimutan Daplas	242 E. Tuazon, Navotas, Rizal	Nestor R. Daplas SS#03-1341792-4	February 24, 2006
8) Emily Delavin Eron Delavin	Unknown	Romulo D. Delavin SS#03-3666357-7	January 14, 2006
9) Lydia Franco	7 Sister Pulido Comp. Purok4, Panapaan, Bacoor, Cavite	Alberto Dolendo SS#03-0692781-6	December 30, 2005
10) Corazon Tutalan	943 Ibarra, Baclaran, Paranaque	Jesus Dolon SS#03-0352644-3	December 8, 2005
11) Mila Magcayang	53 Morning Breeze, Gen. Concepcion, Caloocan City	Adriano M. Erlandez SS#03-3901873-4	March 29, 2006
12) Manuel Flores	Unknown	Lucila Flores SS#01-0933975-3	October 19, 2005
13) Visitacion O. Gabo	925 M. Naval St., Navotas, Metro Manila	Eliseo S. Gabo SS#03-2709662-9	March 12, 2006
14) Rizalina Malapaya Garcia	700 L Taleon St., Sta. Cruz, Laguna	Roberto A. Garcia SS#03-4545691-1	March 16, 2006
15) Norma Cabeltes Hade Gregorio Hade, Jr.	Libmanan, Camarines Sur	Gregorio Hade SS#05-0086270-6	December 14, 2005
16) Melody Juliano	Unknown	Eduardo Juliano SS#03-3730168-9	December 25, 2004
17) Camelia Mapili	Bagong Pag-asa, San Roque II, Pag-asa, QC	Raymundo Mapili SS#03-3053464-4	March 20, 2006
18) Miguela Mojica	Unknown	Venusto Marcelo SS#04-0055391-1	March 21, 2006
19) Janette Allones	Caloocan City	Edison N. Nacario SS#33-1865341-8	April 1, 2006
20) Monchito B. Lapuz	Bgy. Sto. Nino I, Dasmarinas, Cavite	Marilou Olaer SS#33-3971236-3	January 12, 2004
21) Alberto, Vicky and Antonio Paladin	Q.C.	Amadeo J. Paladin SS#03-3366803-8	April 24, 2002
22) Gabriel Rayos Juan Miguel Rayos	Unknown	Pedrito O. Rayos SS#03-2748499-8	April 13, 2006
23) Teresa Torres-Reario	Unknown	Jose A. Reario SS#03-6560774-0	January 4, 2006
24) Melchor Revilla	Vinzon, Camarines Norte	Soledad Revilla SS#03-2123921-7	March 6, 2006
25) Dave Merto	Unknown	Melanie Briones Sabado SS#33-3430501-2	October 11, 2004
26) Gregoria Caniedo	Guihulngan, Neg. Or.	Pedro Sambilad SS#07-0602052-0	August 22, 1997
27) Apia Presado Tanay	Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Bato, Camarines Sur	Jerico B. Tanay SS#03-9028383-8	July 28, 2001
28) Victoria Tayab	Parugan, Antipolo, Rizal	Lio Tayab SS#03-5757969-5	April 18, 2005
29) Arlene Villanueva	355 Maysan Rd., Valenzuela, M.M.	Rodrigo B. Villanueva SS#03-5829423-8	December 24, 2005
30) Sofia Olmo Yumang	Mandaluyong City	Ruben M. Yumang	May 22, 2006

- Nothing follows -

(PDI - June 17, 2006)

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UNDER INT'L JUDGES
Mr. Tomoyuki Iwamoto
(Japan)
Mr. John Stanton
(New Zealand)
STRICLY NO ADDENDUM
Dog Show Schedule
SATURDAY A.M.
June 17, 2006
TERRRIER
DACHSHUNDS
RETRIEVERS
SIGHTHOUDS
SATURDAY 1:30 P.M.
COMPANION & TOY DOGS
Scent hounds & Related Dogs
SUNDAY A.M.
June 18, 2006
SHEEPDOGS & CATTLE DOGS
SPITZS & PRIMITIVE TYPES
SUNDAY 1:30 P.M.
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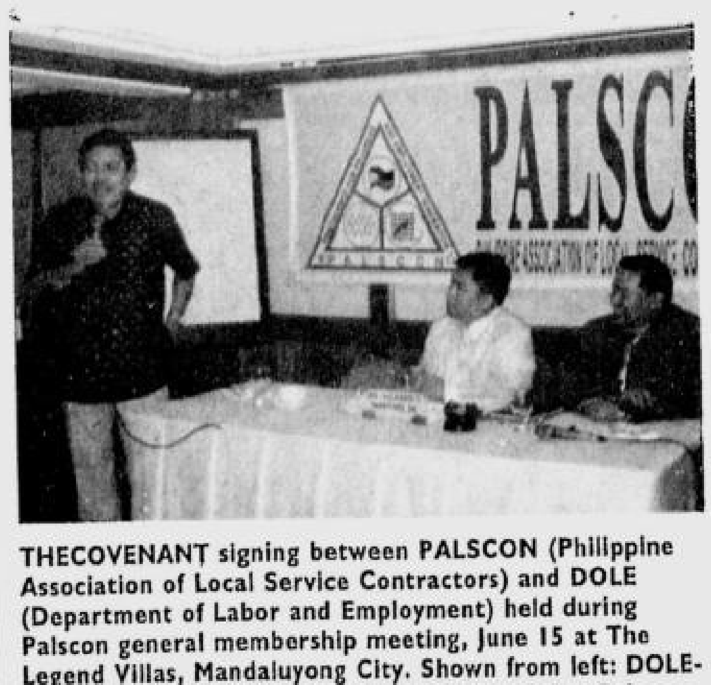

THECOVENANT signing between PALSCON (Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors) and DOLE (Department of Labor and Employment) held during Palscon general membership meeting, June 15 at The Legend Villas, Mandaluyong City. Shown from left: DOLE-NCR Regional Director Ricardo S. Martinez Sr., Palscon President, lawyer Giovanni H. Melgar and Palscon Vice-President Rafael Chico.

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6350219 • 6872354 • 6872366 • Fax 6350220

G/F Trinity Bldg., 836 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila
5273342 • 5280183 • 5270357 • Fax 5280213

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
East Avenue, Quezon City

Application for Conversion of SHUTTLE AIRCONDITIONED Service to AUV/VAN EXPRESS
CASE NO. 2006-0536

ANASTACIA ROSARIO A. BARANGAN
Applicant
x..x

SECOND NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant is a grantee of a Certificate of Public Convenience issued in this case to operate a SHUTTLE AIRCONDITIONED Service for the exclusive transportation of homeowners and residents of UGONG, PASIG CITY to AYALA, MAKATI CITY with the use of ONE (1) unit/s which Certificate is valid up to MARCH 19, 2009 In the application filed on FEBRUARY 1, 2006 applicant request authority to convert the said service to AUV/VAN EXPRESS on the route MASINAG-AYALA with the use of the same number of units with no dropping-off and picking-up of passengers between the designated terminating points (no pick and drop).

NOTICE is hereby given that this application will be heard by this Board on JUNE 23, 2006, at 1:00 p.m., at its office at the above address.

At least five (5) days prior to the above date, applicant/s shall publish this notice once in one (1) daily newspaper of general circulation in Luzon

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written oppositions supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear on said date and time.

This application will be acted upon by this Board on the basis of its records and documentary evidence submitted by the parties, unless the Board deems it necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence

WITNESS the Honorable MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA, Chairperson, this 30th day of MAY 2006.

(Sgd.) GONZALO G. GO, JR.
Chief Legal Division

(PDI - June 17, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 897-66-82 / 890-13-32, Fax 895-83-22

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of C.P. FLORICULTURAL CORPORATION with address at Sankanan, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New Export Producer of Lisianthus and other Cutflowers** at a capacity of 3.2 million stems per year and with base of operations at Barangay Kalugmanan, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon – has been officially accepted on 06 June 2006 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the Board of Investments within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) DENNIS R. MIRALLES
Director
Investment Assistance Department

(PDI - June 17, 2006)

PASADENA VILLAS
380 N. Domingo St., San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 727-7941; 523-6640, 561-5530

C.I. / APPRAISER

Financing Company needs Credit Investigator/Appraiser, not more than 35 years old, college graduate preferably BSCE or BSArch. Send detailed Resumé with references and recent 2x2 photo, Transcript of Records and other credentials to C.P.O. Box 1981, Makati City.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF P-FOUR, INC.

Notice is hereby given that **P-FOUR, INC.** will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission a Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation shortening its corporate life to April 30, 2005.

Any person who may have a claim against said corporation may present the same to the undersigned at c/o ALPAP 1 Bldg., 5th Floor, 140 L.P. Leviste Street Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City.

This announcement serves as notice to all parties concerned of the dissolution of said Company.

(Sgd.) **ALELI MILITSALA-BONIOL**
Corporate Secretary
P-FOUR, INC.

(PDI--June 17, 2006)

CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Tel. # (075) 532-2222 / (075) 532-3146

INVITATION TO BID

The CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC (CENPELCO) with office address at Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan is in need of the following grounding mat materials and accessories for Labrador and Binmaley Substations;

	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1.	#4/0 Hard Drawn Copper Wire	1000 meters
2.	#1/0 Hard Rawn Copper Wire	150 meters
3.	Copper Rod, 5/8" x 10 Ft.	60 pcs.
4.	Cadweld Mold for Tee Connection 4/0-4/0	1 set
5.	Cadweld Mold for Cross Connection 4/0-4/0	1 set
6.	Cadweld Mold for Tee Connection 4/0-1/0	1 set
7.	Cadweld Mold for Copper Wire & Ground Rod	1 set
8.	Cadweld Powder for Tee Connection 4/0-4/0	84 pcs.
9.	Cadweld Powder for Cross Connection 4/0-4/0	68 pcs
10.	Cadweld Powder for Copper Wire & Ground Rod	60 pcs.
11.	Terminal Lug Crimp Type for 4/0 long barrel 1/2 stud size	120 pcs.
12.	Air Terminal Solid Copper 36" x 5/8" dia With bronze base round flat surface with Ground clamp for 4/0 copper wire.	4 sets

Please submit bids/proposals for the supply and delivery of the above items on or before 2:00 PM (1400 hrs.) on June 28, 2006 (Wednesday) at CENPELCO main office wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representative/s.

Request further to include in your sealed bids/proposals the **delivery date, terms of payment, availability of stock, warranty period, brand** and other specifications for evaluation purposes Please submit BID BOND equivalent to two and one-half percent (2-1/2%) of the total bid price if it is a cash or manager's check or if it is a surety bond it must be equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. Bids/proposals submitted beyond the specified date and time will not be accepted.

CENPELCO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPTS THE BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO F. CORPUZ
PBAC CHAIRMAN

Noted by:
(Sgd.) ENGR. EDGARDO R. PIAMONTE
Executive Officer/Project Supervisor

(PDI - June 17 & 19, 2006)

Tours, Leisure & Chow

ckalagayan@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 238

Alden Joshua Cedo, [illegible] Design

Aries Espinosa, Editor

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Astoria Plaza
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District,
Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Diamond Hotel Philippines
Cor. Dr. J. Quinto St. Roxas Blvd.
Tel. (02) 528-3000 Fax 526-2255

Edsa Shangri-la Manila
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila
Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel 523-1000 /fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda
Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpineholte@skyinet.net

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700 to 03
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyinet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

Las Palmas Hotel Manila
1616 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (632) 521-1000/ Fax (632) 523-6917
www.laspalmashotel.com.ph

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

Renaissance Makati City Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Palm Plaza Hotel
Pedro Gil corner M. Adriatico Sts., Manila
Tel. (02) 522-1000 Fax 525-8013
www.palmplazahotel.com

Pearl Farm Beach Resort
Kaputian Island Garden, City of Samal
Tel. (082) 221-9970 to 73
Manila: (02) 750-1896 /Fax (082) 221-9979

Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Levista St.,
Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229
Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com

The Regent Hotel
Elias, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email:cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

CSB HOTEL
Arellan Ave., cor. Estrada St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (02) 400-3333 Fax 400-7401

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9293 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9299
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P. Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
Tel (382) 235-0888 / (382) 234-3858

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Manila Pavilion Hotel
UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila, 1000
Tel. (632) 526-1212 /fax (632) 526-2552
www.manilapavilion.com.ph.

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center
6th Floor, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. (63.2) 729.8888 loc. 8101 Fax: : (63.2)
728.0000 / echua@oakwood..com.ph
www.oakwood.com

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/Fax (082) 225-1888

Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Manila : 243-2222 / F: 243-0852
http://www.subichotel.com

Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. :(074) 446.0560, 446.5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (632) 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
Email : taalvista@fuegohotels.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (632) 340-4888/fax (632) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Romantic June at City Garden Hotel!

HALFWAY THROUGH A BUSY year, have you dreamt of taking a well-deserved break? How about a relaxing day or two in an elegantly furnished room, a spa treat for two, while the kids are frolicking at the outdoor swimming pool, or a romantic dinner overlooking the city lights of the metropolis? All these you can do at City Garden Hotel Makati, without the hassle of long drives, traffic, and exorbitant prices.

First, check-in to one of its well-appointed guest rooms that come for as low as P1,450 per person on twin-sharing basis. This already includes a sumptuous buffet breakfast at the Le Jardin.

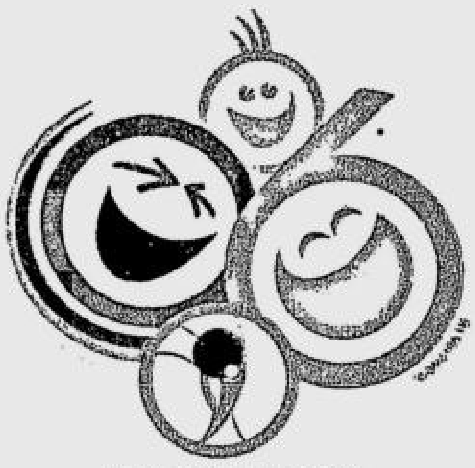
After check-in, try out their fully-equipped gym and sauna or take a dip in their open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck. Or better yet, you may opt to explore nearby Powerplant Mall at Rockwell or Glorietta Mall for some shopping.

For those craving for some Japanese treats, try City Garden Hotel Makati's on-going food promotion entitled, "Taste of Japan", offering delectable sushi and sashimi, appetizing soups and salads, and mouth-watering Tempura, Yakitori, Teppanyaki, Gyodon and Teriyaki.

After a day of fun activities, try the Bamboo Bliss, a signature Spa package at the newly opened Bamboo Massage & Spa at the Upper Penthouse, or a facial treatment for two for a relaxing and rejuvenating retreat. The Bamboo Bliss starts with an aromatherapy whirlpool bath followed by a full body scrub and finished with a highly relaxing massage.

For dinner, do not miss the Roofdeck Bar & Grill. Offering sumptuous grilled specialties and appetizers, it has the best view of the metropolis at night. A great way to end a great day!

For more details, City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, please call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com .



FIFA WORLD CUP
GERMANY
2006

WORLD CUP 2006 MANIA @ THE BELLEVUE MANILA

Kick off to a great soccer adventure with World Cup 2006 Mania @ The Bellevue Manila. Starting June 10, catch the FIFA World Cup Germany 2006 live via satellite at The Bellevue Hotel's 20/20 Sports Bar. Be in the thick of the action with the full surround speakers and plasma TVs while enjoying your favourite drink! A basketful of sweet fruits in season on top of a creamy cake, Passion Fruit Charlotte Cake, is The Bellevue Hotel's Cake of the Month for June. Treat yourself to slice upon slice of heaven with this delicately made cake that's as marvelous a treat for the eyes as it is to the palate. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Acoustic night at Café Astoria

NOW THAT THE COOLER WEATHER IS HERE, CAFÉ ASTORIA IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO chill out. Listen to the soothing sounds of the different bands and appreciate some good food, good beer and good company. All you can drink Draft Beer for only P290++ from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Saturday. 5+1 on all local beers for only P380++ from 6 p.m. onwards from Mondays to Saturdays. For information, please visit Astoria Plaza at No. 15 J. Escriva Drive, (formerly Amber Avenue) Ortigas Business District, Pasig City or call 687-1111.

Waterfront Hotel Indulgence 2006

WITH THE OVERWHELMING success of Waterfront Hotels & Casinos' Indulgence program, the country's largest Filipino-owned Hotel chain is now gearing up for another round of irresistible offerings. "With the re-launch of Indulgence 2006, guests now have the chance to relive and enjoy delicious perks and generous discounts in any of the four Waterfront Hotels & Casinos across the country," delivers WHC corporate sales and marketing director Joey Bernardino.

WHC's Indulgence program 2006 has an added perk: It now includes in its expanding roster of properties their newest acquisition, the newly renovated and revamped Manila Pavilion Hotel. "Indulgence is a celebration of 4 hotels with 1 booklet," says Bernardino. Another added premium is a new feature for 2006: Instead of the 5+1 promo in previous years, this years' Indulgence will feature value for money and a straight up rate of just P10,000 each! Each booklet entitles the bearer to 4 overnight room accommodations, translating to one over-night stay in any of the following hotel properties of their choice: Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino and Waterfront Airport Hotel & Casino Mactan, both located in Cebu City; Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao and Manila Pavilion Hotel. Moreover, the booklet also holds one additional voucher that entitles guests to a delicious complimentary buffet for one person for every 4 paying guests in Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino's UNO, Waterfront Airport Hotel & casino Mactan's UNO and in Manila Pavilion Hotel's newly re-opened Seasons.

Indulgence 2006 booklets are limited in supply and its vouchers are valid up to Dec. 31. For inquiries and reservations, one may call the Waterfront Hotels & Casinos Manila Sales and Reservations Office at (02) 687-0888, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino at (032) 232-6888, Waterfront Airport Hotel Casino Mactan at (032) 340-4888, Manila Pavilion Hotel at (02) 526-1212 and Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao at (082) 233-2881. Interested parties may avail of Indulgence 2006 booklets at the Front Offices and Business Centers of the four Waterfront Hotels & Casinos, Manila Sales and Reservations Office and Accredited Travel Agencies.

'A Day for Dads' at Dusit Hotel Nikko

DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO HONORS FATHERS with the ultimate treat on Father's Day. On June 17 and 18, treat dad to a sumptuous meal offered in the hotel's authentic Asian specialty restaurants where he can get exciting perks and freebies.

Avail of the special lunch and dinner buffet at The Café and partake on the best buffet selections in town. Benjarong, Benkay, Thien Duong, and Fiesta San Miguel offers sumptuous set menus for lunch and dinner fit for Kings, guaranteed to satisfy dad's appetite. Dads dining in any of the restaurants and availed of the Father's Day buffet and set menu offerings will be given special gift items from Suriya Spa and Rustan's Essenses. Moreover, when you buy a bottle of wine for your dad, he will receive a special "alpha male kit" (limited offer only).

Unwind and drink splendid wine while you nibble on luscious hors d'oeuvres amidst the relaxing ambience of the Lobby Lounge. Choose from an invigorating collection of red and white wines to recharge weary spirits and prep up your evening with fabulous friends. Heighten your senses with our Wine Buffet from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. for only P500++ per person.

For inquiries and dining reservations, call 867-3333.

People, Events & Products

INSULAR LIFE BAGS READER'S DIGEST GOLD TRUSTED BRAND AWARD

Insular Life, the first and largest Filipino Life insurance company was adjudged as the Gold Awardee under the insurance category for the second consecutive year in the Reader's Digest Trusted Brand Survey. Insular Life scored high in the survey's quantitative and qualitative scores, performing clearly above other brands. It placed ahead of competitors as more respondents identified Insular Life as their insurance company of choice. On the other hand, the Company earned consumers' nod in five key brand values: Quality, Value, Trustworthiness, Strong Image and Understanding of Customer Needs. The Reader's Digest Asia Trusted Survey is highly esteemed as it is considered an accurate index of consumer preference. Photo shows Insular Life chair of the Board and CEO Vicente R. Ayllon (3rd from left) holding the Gold Trophy with Reader's Digest executives, (from left) Mark Cass, Reader's Digest (RD) Southeast Asia advertising director; Jim Plouffe RD editor-in-chief; Simon Cholmeley, RD regional advertising director; and Liliet Yan, RD sales director.

Brands 2006

The Directors, Officers and Staff of

ALLIED BANKING CORPORATION

express their heartfelt sympathies to the family of

SYLVIA CHAN LIM

former Senior Vice President and Head of Treasury Division

who passed away in the grace of our Lord on June 8, 2006
in San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

We join her family, relatives, friends, and pious readers
in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body will lie in state at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine - Parish
5th St., Doña J. Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City
on Friday, June 16, 2006.

Mass will be on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.
at the Chapels 7 to10, Mortuary and Crematory,
The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.
Interment will follow after the mass.

In lieu of flowers, check donations may be accepted
*payable to **The Cancer Institute Foundation, Inc.***

JANINA MARIE SALINAS VELOSO

Passed away in the grace of our Lord
at the tender age of 13, on June 15, 2006.

Her parents **Junie** and **Nini**; grandparents **Remee R. Veloso**, **Vic** and **Nati Salinas**; uncles **Rico** and **Elli**; aunt **Blesie**; great grandparents **Pedro** and **Chit Madrinan**; godparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla Dela Virgen at Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. A funeral Mass will be held on Sunday, June 18, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

GERONIMO "KA GERRY" K. KAMUS

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on June 15, 2006 at the age of 74.

His body lies in state at Doña Aurora Chapel, Arlington East, Raymundo Ave., Pasig. Interment will be announced later.

I have fought the
good fight,
I have finished
the race, I have
kept the faith
(2 Timothy 4)

Our Dear Lord has called
our dearest Mother

Corazon P. Abalos

to join Him at the age of 84,
on Thursday, 15th of June, 2006
at 5:25 p.m.

We, her children: **Chita**, **Ramon**, **Angelo**, **Boots**, **Nick**, **George**, **Baby**, **Remy**, **Tito**, **Ditas** and **Resie**; her grandchildren, brothers, sisters, in-laws and relatives request for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in the state of Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

"...absent from the body to be
present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

In Loving Memory
of

ZOSIMO L. ANGAN

on his
1st Death
Anniversary
on June 17, 2006

Schedule of Masses

St. Therese of the Child Jesus *Lahug, Cebu City*	***6:00 AM***
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish *Capitol Site, Cebu City*	***12:15 PM***
Redemptorist Church *Cebu City*	***5:30 PM***
Holy Spirit Parish *BF Homes, Quezon City*	***6:00 A.M.***
Sto. Nino de la Paz Parish *Greenbelt, Makati City*	***12:15 PM***
Sanctuario de San Antonio Chapel *Forbes Park, Makati City*	***6:00 PM***
San Isidro Labrador Parish *Greenland Subdivision, Marikina City*	***6:30 PM***

His family requests relatives, friends and readers
to remember him in their prayers.

Minerva Ibrado Chavez

of Sagay, Negros Occidental
and Alabang, Muntinlupa

*Joined her husband, **Col. Ladislao Locsin Chavez**,*
in God's kingdom on June 14, 2006 at age 82.

Her children:

Mila Wong; Frank & Jean; Jennifer & Bernie Quesnelle; Marilyn; Ladislao Jr. & Rosie; Minerva & Leoncio Duran Jr.; Lauris & Guada; Gwen & Magdy Youssef; Lister & Mimi; Samantha & Rino Que

Her grandchildren:

Anson & Aya; Angie & Chad; Katrina & Charles Bernard, Stephanie, Ingrid; Valerie; Chiqui & Jason, Shani & Jason, Jon Lad; Adrian Paul, Ruth Nicole; Mariel, Minerva Ann, Martin; Philip Anton; Mark Lister, Miguel Luis, Immanuel Lad, Victoria Isabel, Kristina Camille; Mark Allen, Marci Grace

Her Great grandchildren:
Nathan, Frank Ethan, Logan

request friends and other relatives to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Del Pilar Chapel, Funeraria Paz,
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 20, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.
following an early Mass at the Del Pilar Chapel.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

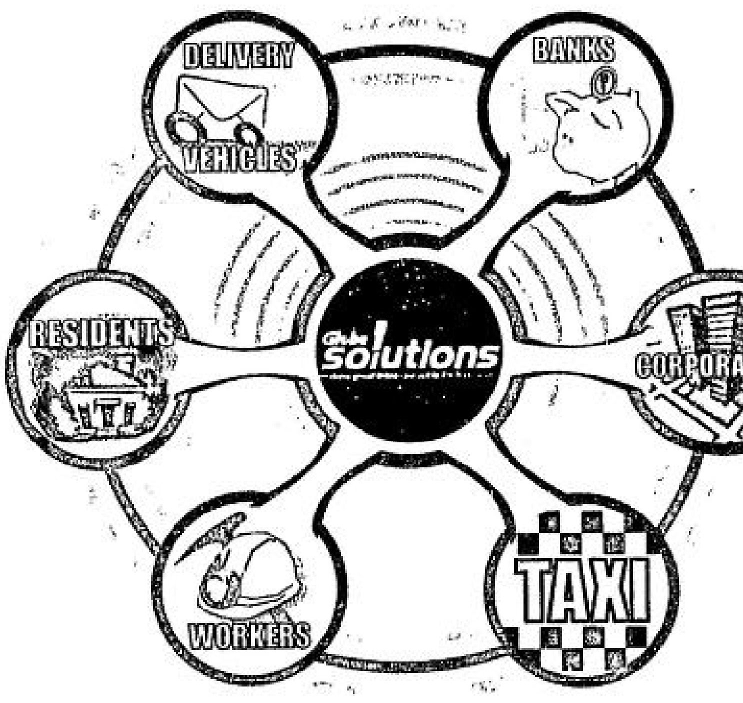
CUSTOMIZED CORPORATE SOLUTIONS

ENABLED BY:

Globe solutions

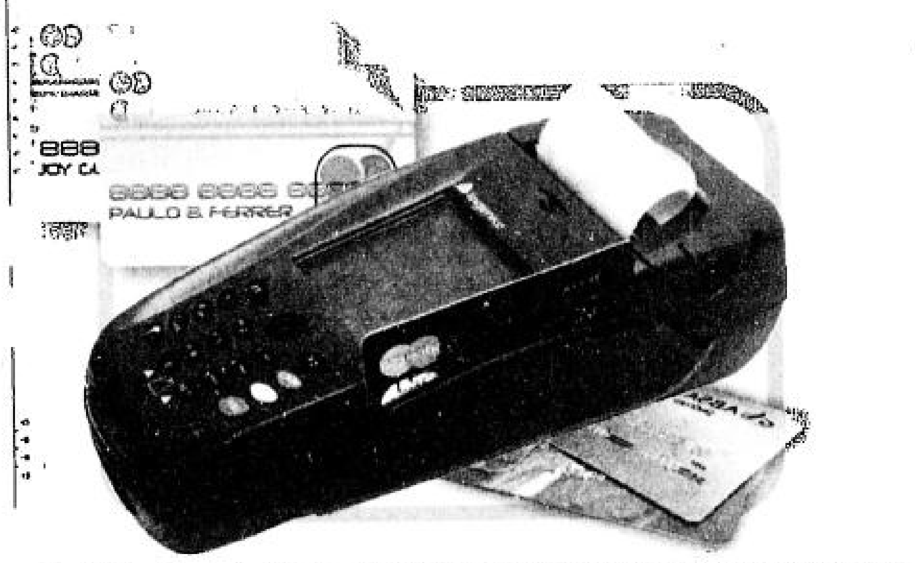
making great things possible for business

GlobeSolutions is the enabler connecting Corporations, Clients and Businesses



Over the years GlobeSolutions has provided customized business solutions for a wide array of companies from a variety of industries. They are able to achieve this by continuously staying on the cutting edge of technology and working closely with their clients to develop products and services enabling large corporations to enhance and efficiently manage their current operations as well as increase their revenue potentials and productivity.

Machine to Machine communication or M2M is one of the cutting edge applications that GlobeSolutions has been working on together with partners. GlobeSolutions has successfully applied it to automatic inventory updates. Developed for a client that has a nationwide network of outlets, this solution allowed the inventory of all remote offices to be linked to the head office for real time updates and information.



The i8200 mobile terminal that uses GPRS/GSM to make creditt card transactions almost anywhere.

GlobeSolutions also partners with application developers and equipment suppliers such as Ingenico to provide clients with innovative business solutions on the forefront of technology.

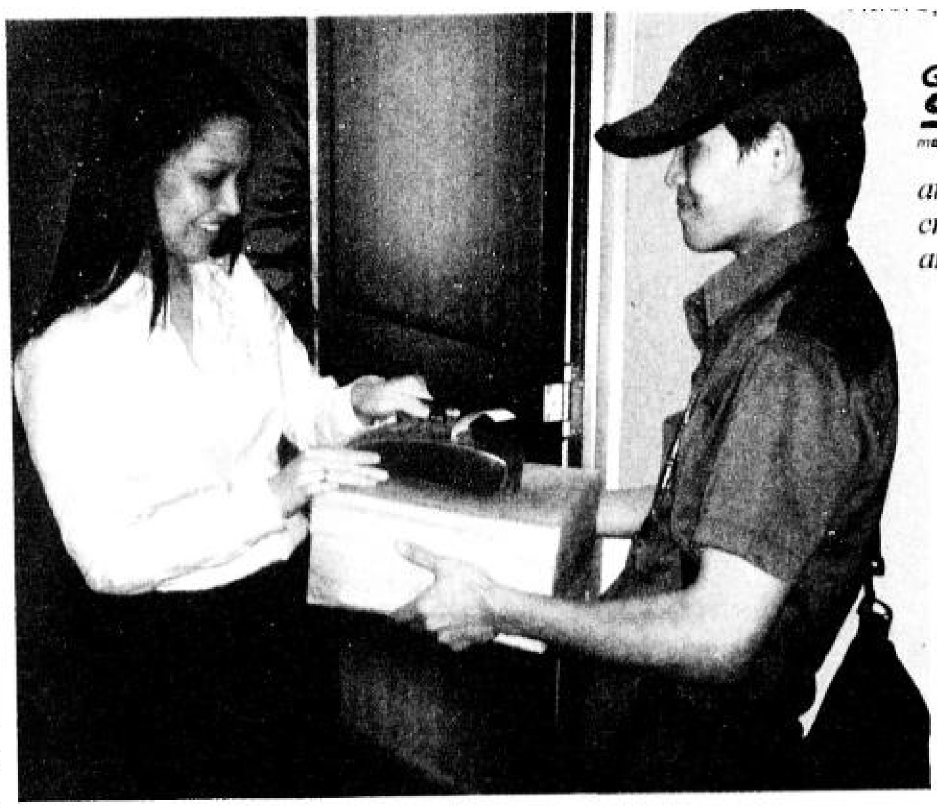
Ingenico is the world's number one Electronic Funds Transfer Point-of-Sale (EFTPOS) terminal manufacturer. Established in 1980, the French company has shipped over 10 million terminals to 90 countries worldwide. It was only natural that GlobeSolutions would partner with them to provide payment solutions for a variety of clients.

In fact, GlobeSolutions together with Ingenico and Merchant Express, has spawned the Pay@Table service for an upscale coffee and restaurant chain, a business solution that uses a wireless POS terminal brought to the customer's table. The customer's credit card is then swiped and the transaction receipt printed out for the customer's signature without the need for the credit card to leave his sight. The entire transaction done via GPRS takes only 3 seconds making card payments faster, more convenient, and more secure.

Another example of how GlobeSolutions works as an enabler is when a banking corporation needed to provide their credit card holders with transaction capabilities even in far-flung areas that may not have access to phone lines. Enter GlobeSolutions with wireless data access networks like GPRS, EDGE, 3G and 3.5G (HSDPA). Combined with Ingenico terminals, this wireless access gave the bank the capability to process payments and other business transactions beyond the limits of a traditional fixed-line set-up. This means that stores and restaurants such as high class restaurants in Tagaytay and gas stations in remote locations all across the Philippines can now start accepting card payments where this was not possible before. This solution is also ideal for a delivery service business, allowing customers the ability to swipe their credit cards at their very own doorstep.

A banking corporation's wider reach, Merchant Express' Pay@Table and Pay@Door their services are just several examples of how GlobeSolutions can implement an application like M2M to help businesses expand their storefront, enhance customer servicing and improve efficiency. Their alliance with Ingenico and service providers like Merchant Express only shows how GlobeSolutions is willing to team up with various partners to create the right solution that can change change the way companies do business for the better.

The face of business is changing. To stay in step with the times and one step ahead of competition, it's time to bring in new solutions. Find out what GlobeSolutions can do for your company. Call 730-1999 to find out how.



Globe solutions

making great things possible for business

and its partners enable credit card payments at your clients doorstep

Ecija power facilities to be sold

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Management Corp. (PSALM) is keen on auctioning off the 112-megawatt (MW) Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower facilities after the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) goes into commercial operation.

PSALM president Nieves Osorio, however, did not give a firm date on when the plant package would be placed on the auction block.

"Since it's a peaking plant, we want (to bid it out) after the start of the operation of the spot market. But the really serious investors want (the bidding) this year," she said.

In September last year, PSALM opened the bidding for the Pantabangan-Masiway facilities, both located in Nueva Ecija, via published bid invitations that said interested parties could submit letters of intent (LOIs) until Oct. 12.

Only entities that have submitted LOIs for the plant package would be allowed to participate in the bidding process.

Interested bidders will have to sign confidentiality agreements with PSALM and pay a nonrefundable participation fee of $1,000 to be able to secure bidding packages that will contain the bidding procedures for the assets.

The pre-bid conference for the Pantabangan-Masiway plants was held last Oct. 19. Interested investors were allowed to conduct due diligence on the hydro facilities from Oct. 3 to Nov. 25.

Bidders will also be required to post bid securities worth $2 million for the Pantabangan-Masiway plants in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit from a local bank.

PSALM had said in its bid invitations that it would announce the exact date of the bidding at a later date. But no announcements had yet been made.

At present, PSALM is working on the privatization of the 600-MW Calaca coal-fired power plants, which had already gone through two failed biddings, and the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession.

MWSS issues bid requirements for west concession

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE GOVERNMENT-RUN METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) in July will issue the prequalification requirements for companies vying for its 83.97 percent stake in west concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc.

MWSS Deputy Administrator Macra Cruz said companies interested in taking part in the auction would have until September to submit the pre-qualification documents.

"We would like to give them enough time to study the terms of reference the Maynilad Board has recently approved," Cruz said.

The MWSS is currently seeking proposals from qualified private companies, who will be awarded the right to subscribe to Maynilad shares.

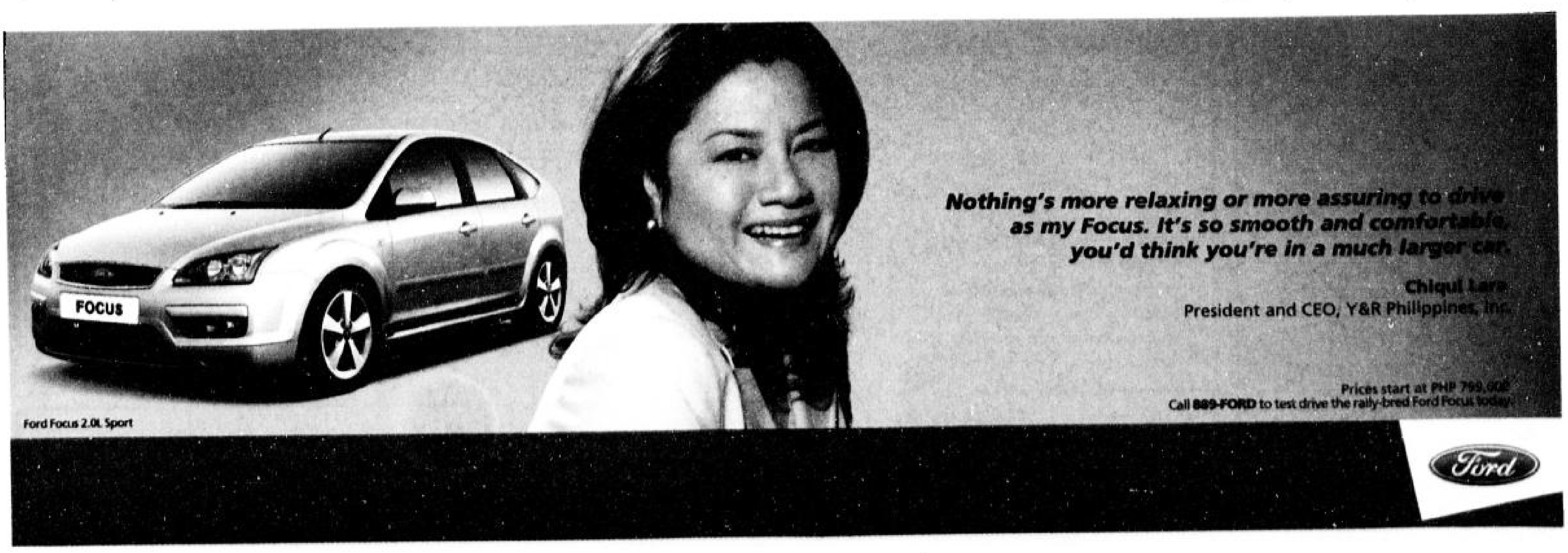
The winning bidder will take over and continue operations of the west zone for the remaining years of the 25-year concession.

However, according to the Terms of Reference, the winning bidder will also have to assume Maynilad's obligations under the Debt and Capital Restructuring Agreement.

According to the terms drafted by ABN-Amro Bank N.V., interested parties may form a consortium for the purpose of participating in the selection process.

Interested parties should submit a letter of interest, confidentiality agreement, and a pre-qualification security bond worth $100,000, to be issued as an irrevocable standby letter of credit.

The winning bidder will have the option to secure the 16-percent equity equivalent to 236 million shares held by French firm Lyonnaise Asia Water (Holdings) Pte. Ltd., and Metrobank and Trust Company's 524,000 shares equivalent to 0.03 percent.



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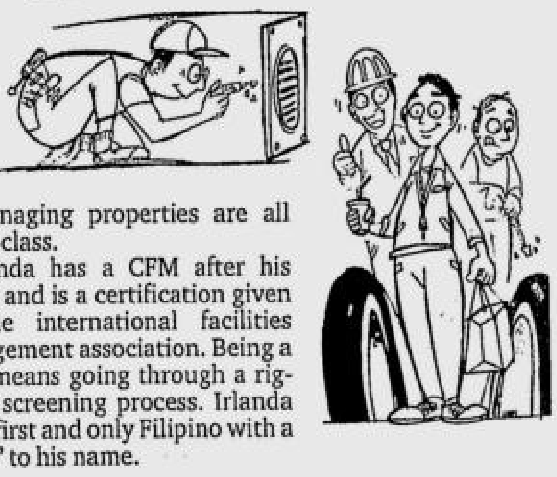
PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

'Boring' facilities management Ayala's secret weapon



By Tessa R. Salazar

THERE HAS BEEN AN increased dependence on facilities management—the globally accepted term for such a task. Property owners nowadays prefer to be relieved of the day-to-day operations of their buildings so that they can focus on their core businesses. Thus, the "dirty" job is relegated or given to property professionals.

While the buildings are technologically advancing in terms of equipment, there's more professional focus on how to maintain facilities.

One facilities management group is Ayala Property Management Corp., which is not just involved in the design and the implementation stage of the buildings but is also consulted on what works well and what can be easily maintained. APMC provides inputs even during the design stage of construction.

APMC is also part of testing and commissioning of equipment prior to operations. This team sees to it that before a building is turned over to the owners of condominiums, or prior to mall operations, equipment such as elevators are running and stress-tested. Testing includes running the equipment for over 24 hours to make sure there is ample time for adjustments and repairs.

So how does it feel to be on top of a company that needs to maintain a reputation?

Thankless job

Raul M. Irlanda, president of APMC, says that the more operations run smoothly, the more invisible a property administrator and his team in the facility management become.

Says Irlanda: "It's a thankless job. The main objective is to delight the customer. In a particular building there are a thousand and one things that can go wrong, and they normally do. (That's) Murphy's Law. And when that thing hits the fan, it's always the facilities management guy that gets hit."

Irlanda is quick to add that the people have seen the facilities management through time.

"The value is enhanced and preserved over time. You don't see an Ayala-developed building that is decrepit or rundown. This is largely because APMC ensures that the value of the property appreciates over time," he says.

"Anything and everything that Ayala develops, APMC operates. Be it commercial center operations, office building, residential buildings, condominiums, subdivisions, industrial parks, water systems, parking—it's being taken care of by one company APMC," Irlanda says.

"We're the only management company that has heavy parking operations. We have close to 13,000 parking slots," he says.

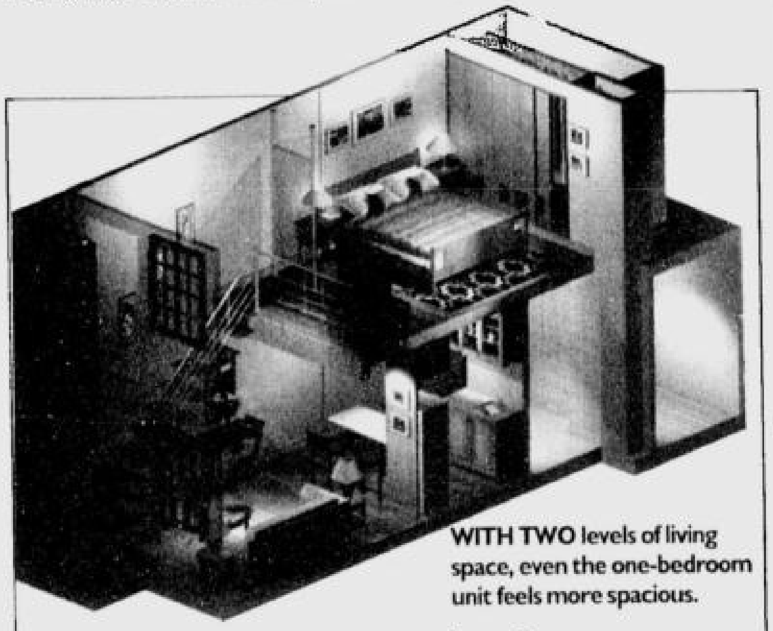
Irlanda says that his team is also into waterworks, parking, commercial centers, building operations, billing collection systems of Laguna Technopark and 6750, among other things.

Secret weapon

But it is also APMC's facilities management that becomes a secret weapon, and would earn Ayala the most trusted Philippine real estate developer.

APMC has three ISO certifications: quality management, environmental management and health and safety. That means APMC's practices are world-class. ISO certifications also mean that the documentation and practices of managing properties are all world-class.

Irlanda has a CFM after his name, and is a certification given by the international facilities management association. Being a CFM means going through a rigorous screening process. Irlanda is the first and only Filipino with a "CFM" to his name.



WITH TWO levels of living space, even the one-bedroom unit feels more spacious.

Giving condo layout a fresh look

By Charles E. Buban

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, start-up families and even first time home buyers will likely be attracted to condominium living.

Relatively more affordable than single-family detached homes, buying a condo unit for this particular set of buyers is a better alternative than renting or buying a house and lot.

Moreover, aside from being located in highly favorable locations (like near or within business districts, shopping and recreational centers), a lot of condominiums built nowadays also come with attractive amenities including swimming pool, gym, playground for children, snack bar, uninterrupted water supply, a centralized system for garbage disposal and collection as well as 24-hour security service.

"One Sapphire Condominium is no different from the rest. However, while a lot of condo units are available in single level layouts, the developers of One Sapphire decided to construct a six-story building with all its units having bilevel layout," said Renelyn Tan, operations manager of RJ Lhinet Development Corp.

One Sapphire's bilevel units are available in one-bedroom (33.59 sq m), two-bedroom (72.32 sq m) or three bedroom (78.87 sq m) layouts with prices ranging from P1.2 million to P3.7 million.

More privacy

Tan explains that a bilevel layout provide residents more breathing space, gives its owners more interior design options and more important, privacy.

In the case of One Sapphire units, the bedroom areas are placed in the upper level, separated from the living, dining and kitchen area by a short flight of stairs.

"We value the privacy of our residents so that apart from moving the most intimate part of the home in the upper level, we also employed acoustic-friendly walls and floorings so that the sound coming from downstairs and even those from the neighboring units are much more muted," she added.

Although a bilevel layout is no longer new in condominium projects, One Sapphire is among the very few that employed the layout to all its units.

Model units are now available for viewing within the project site.

Located on Dr. Jose R. Fabella road (near the corner of Celia street), One Sapphire is just a few meters from the Mandaluyong City Hall or a short drive away from the Makati CBD (via P. Burgos extension and Makati avenue) or Ortigas Center (via Boni avenue and Pioneer).

"This makes our condo project all the more attractive. Being in an urban location offers more lifestyle variety, stores, restaurants, movie theaters, entertainment and activities that suburban life doesn't offer. And another big plus—these amenities and services can be accessed with little driving," she assured.

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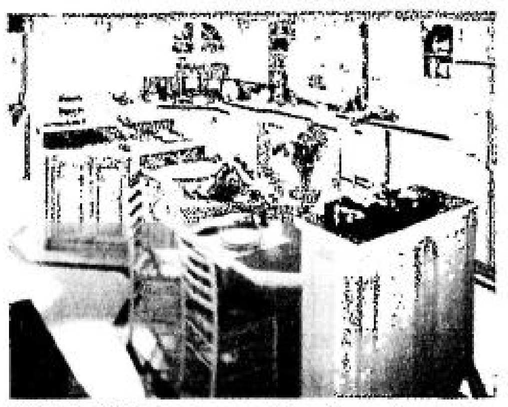
Revitalizing the home



AN EXAMPLE of a user-friendly and multifunctional kitchen, designed by Jim Krengel

AMONG THE NON-ASIAN COUNTRIES, IT IS observed that living spaces are increasingly being designed without a dedicated space for dining area nor a complete layout for a working kitchen.

This reflects the changing lifestyle and cultural habits of individuals and families where dining is considered to be an activity that is prerogatively done at any time and at any place or even extracted from the home to resort to dine-out alternatives.

Preserved family practices

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

However, it is interesting to note that Filipino clients maintain a different taste from this. There is actually a particular eye for the dining and kitchen areas as what we experienced in dealings with a considerable number of clients. A number of them specified how these areas are expected to function in order to cater to their families' particular activities and habits.

We had one client who considered their kitchen to be the busiest place in the house. It was specified to be located proximate to the main entrance in order to readily welcome the family members who will be arriving from school or work. Nevertheless, this space remains to be discreetly situated away from view of guests and nonfamily members. In doing so, we still have to maintain its proximity to the stairway for convenience of access from the other parts of the house, especially the bedrooms.

More than the living room, the kitchen and dining areas are considered in actual practice to be the two best settings for interaction and get-togethers. Kitchens are being designed to be functionable and even sociable instead of intending it to be a mere showcase. It is also being designed to be child-friendly in order to encourage participation of children in the work at home. Its proximity to the dining area is a logical consequence of the expectation that the meal served to the families is an output of a dynamic kitchen activity rather than merely provided by catering establishments.

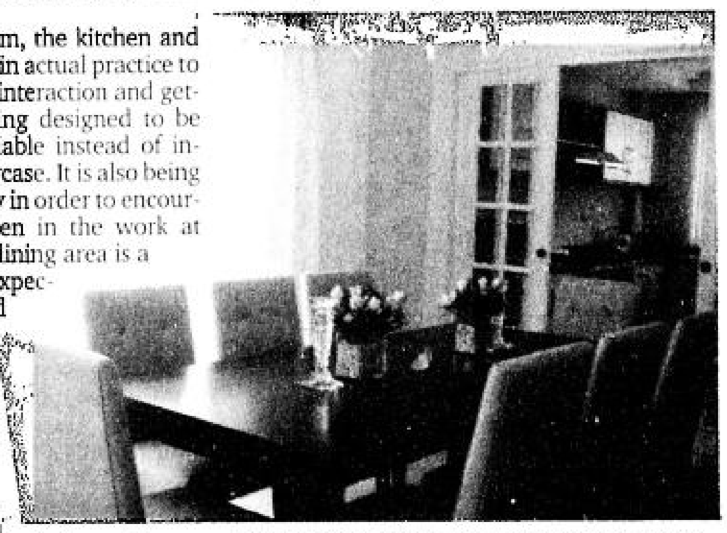
Behavioral influence

The dining areas play a particular humanizing role in the home. Recent studies have supported the theory on children brought up with the habit of frequently taking meals with the family, especially with their parents. They were observed and found out to have higher capacity to perform well in school, confident, emotionally stable and with a greater promise of being fulfilled professionally. Though there are flourishing hotel and restaurant businesses both in terms of architectural interior design and culinary expertise, these structures cannot replace the familial ambiance, the special cuisine taste and the warmth of family conversations while dining right at your very home.

You can once again consider looking over at the status of your dining and kitchen areas at home. Is it fostering a family spirit? Does the layout and equipment available enable you to efficiently perform and to professionalize your work in the home? How can you reflect your personal style in decorating these spaces that will make your house a place that your family would look forward to going home to?

When it comes to these details, we architects can only do as much. The heart of the matter will depend on you.

E-mail your feedback at arkinet@email.com.ph.



DINING areas play a humanizing role in the home as families are brought closer through their tradition of dining together.

THE BELLAGIO III

A lifestyle abundant with luxury

PREMIER DEVELOPER MEGAWORLD CORP. introduces discriminating homebuyers to a lifestyle that offers all the best things one can ask for. The Bellagio III, its latest urban cocoon in the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, proves that there is no such thing as moderation when it comes to luxury, comfort and convenience.

The Bellagio III, the third and last of the Bellagio Residences, magnifies every pleasure. From its superb golf course views and sophisticated homes to its first-rate leisure and lifestyle amenities and matchless location, the project sets a new standard of upper-crust living in the metropolis.

Golf course playground

The Bellagio III is set in a prime spot inside the Forbes Town Center, a P15-billion, five-hectare joint venture of Megaworld and Bonifacio West Development Corp. It brings condominium living literally to the edge of an icon of prestige: the Manila Golf and Country Club. The Forbes Town Center is the only project in the Global City that boasts the most expansive golf course views—almost half a kilometer long of sprawling Zoysia-covered landscape.

Like its predecessors, the fast-selling Bellagio I and II, the Bellagio III brings nature closer to its residents. Through tinted floor-to-ceiling glass windows, the project offers an eye-soothing sight of the green every day, from dusk till dawn.

Lavishness finds a home

Soaring 39 stories and boasting 454 master-planned units, the Bellagio III is the new address of "excess."

From the porte-cochere, returning homeowners step into luxury at the well-appointed, granite-paved lobby-cum-lounge, where glass window panels frame the captivating life-size views of the fairways outside.

The upper levels host a variety of condominium homes that are designed to meet every customer preference. There are executive studios, 58 to 69 square meters in size, and one-bedroom units that boast 92 to 106 square meters of living space. Both the executive studio and one-bedroom home come in loft-type layouts, featuring a second level that overlooks the living area. At the second level, the bedroom can serve as a den, study or storage room as the need arises. Megaworld's innovative loft-type unit answers the need for spacious and cozy accommodations. What's more, high windows give residents intimate views of the golf course either from their living room or bedroom.

The Bellagio III features two-bedroom units, offering 85 to 95 square meters of space, and three-bedroom suites that are 119.3 to 209.5 square meters in size.

All units showcase design touches that play up the beauty and color of nature outside. The ceilings and walls are immaculately painted, while the living, dining and bedroom areas sport a wood plank floor laminate finish.

Centerpiece of pleasure

Every detail of the Bellagio III is tailored to the residents' pleasure. And the fun options at the podium are no less grand. Here, a tropical-inspired recreation area evokes images of beach sand and blue sea.

The pool deck features a stretch of powder-fine, synthetic white sand that leads to the swimming pool and children's wading pool. For the ultimate spa experience, there is an Arotherm Capsule that combines Hydrotherapy Tub, Wet Table, Steam and Vichy Shower services. Other facilities include a sauna, gym, children's play area, music/piano room, function room and day care center.

Contributing to the worry-free ambience are five high-speed elevators, multilevel parking and efficient 24-hour security. At the Bellagio III, residents are assured of an indulgent environment where their every need is met and their every whim catered to.

Interconnected way of life

At the Bellagio III, residents enjoy an edge in mobility given the project's proximity to the Global City's business, educational and commercial institutions.

The Bellagio III is linked to a modern network of roads and highways. The Makati and Ortigas business districts are accessible via the Edsa Kalayaan flyover, McKinley Road or C-5 Road. The recently completed Sampaguita West Ramps 1 and 2 and Collector Distribution (CD) Road connect the Global City to Pasig, Quezon City, Parañaque and the rest of Southern Metro Manila.

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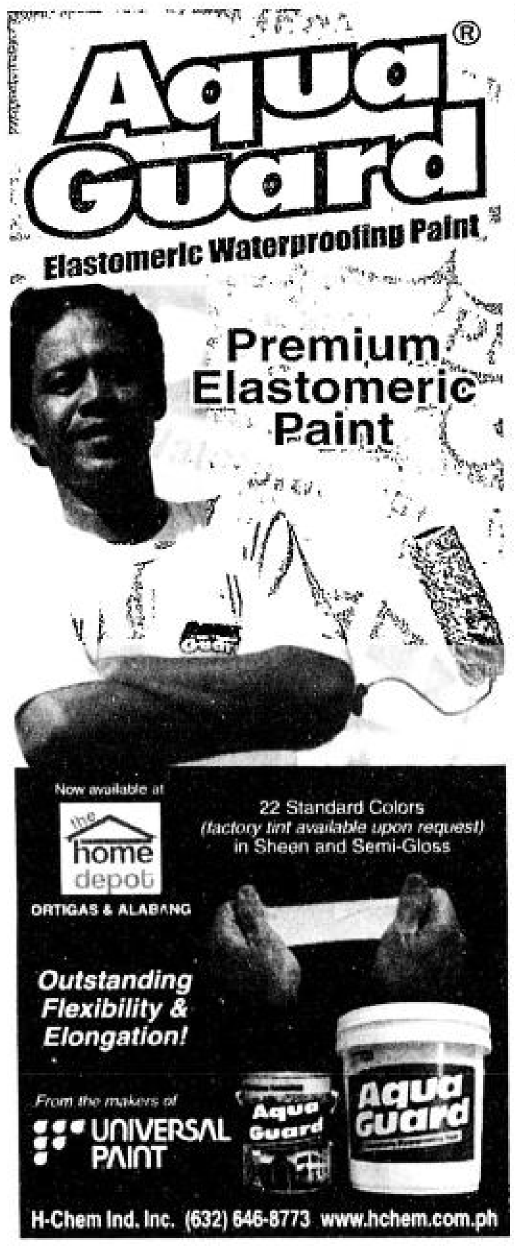

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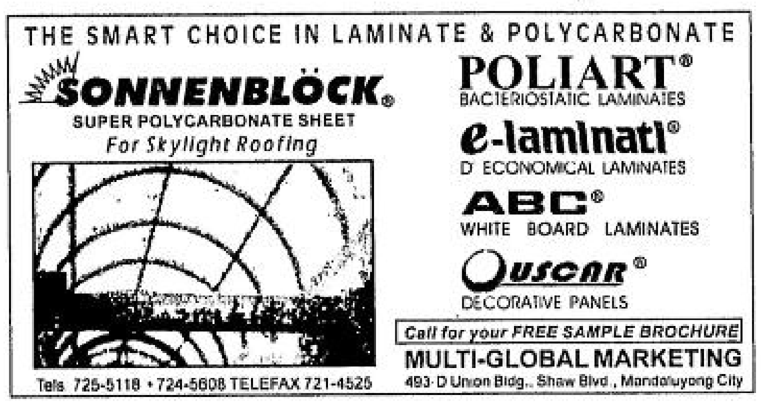

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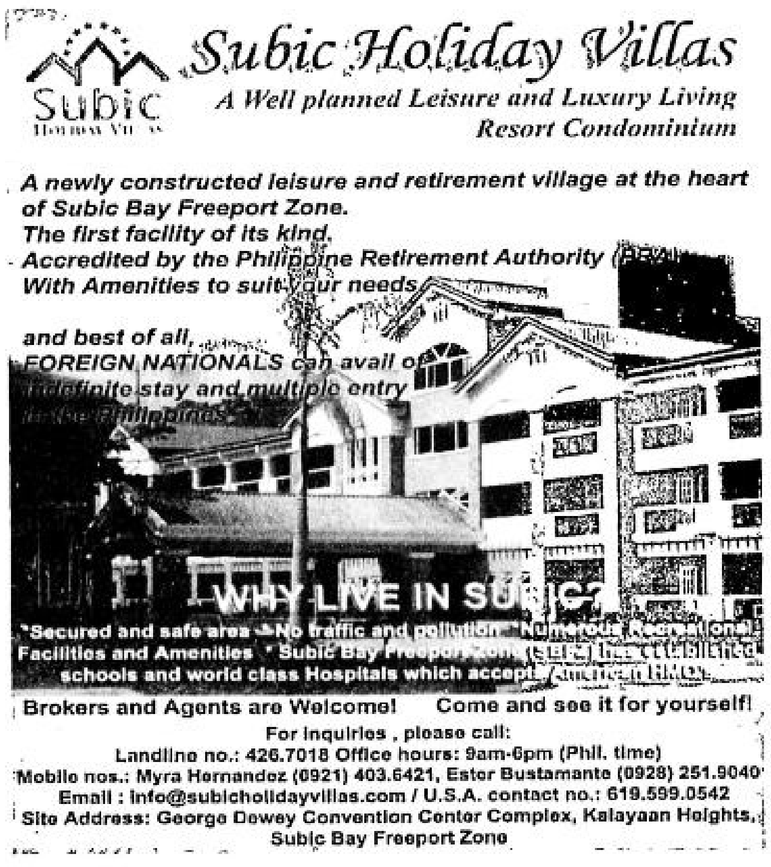

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Sta. Rosa. The new boomtown of the upwardly mobile self-made success stories.

It's Southward Ho! New creative business minds are making the move away from the traditional Metro Manila central business districts to Sta. Rosa. With eyes set on enterprise opportunities in the growing population of Sta. Rosa and the increasing visitor critical mass of Tagaytay, the population of young investor entrepreneurs is steadily increasing. Valenza will provide the perfect home for this bright-eyed class of aggressive achievers.

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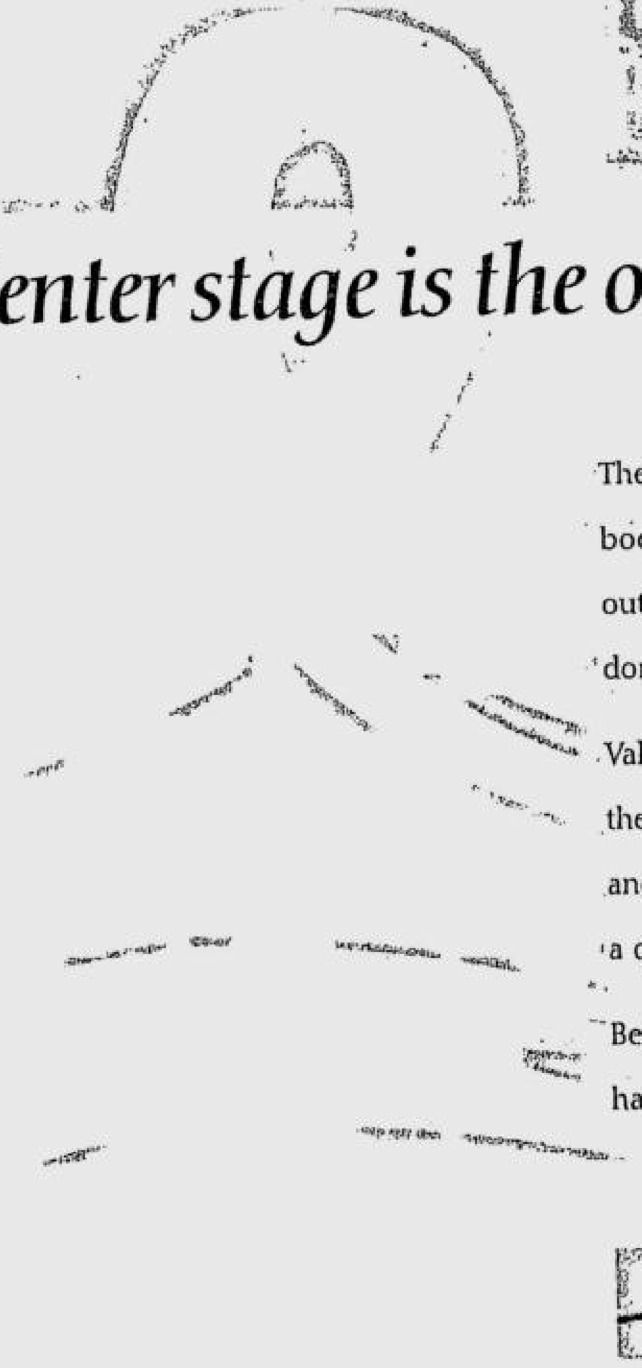

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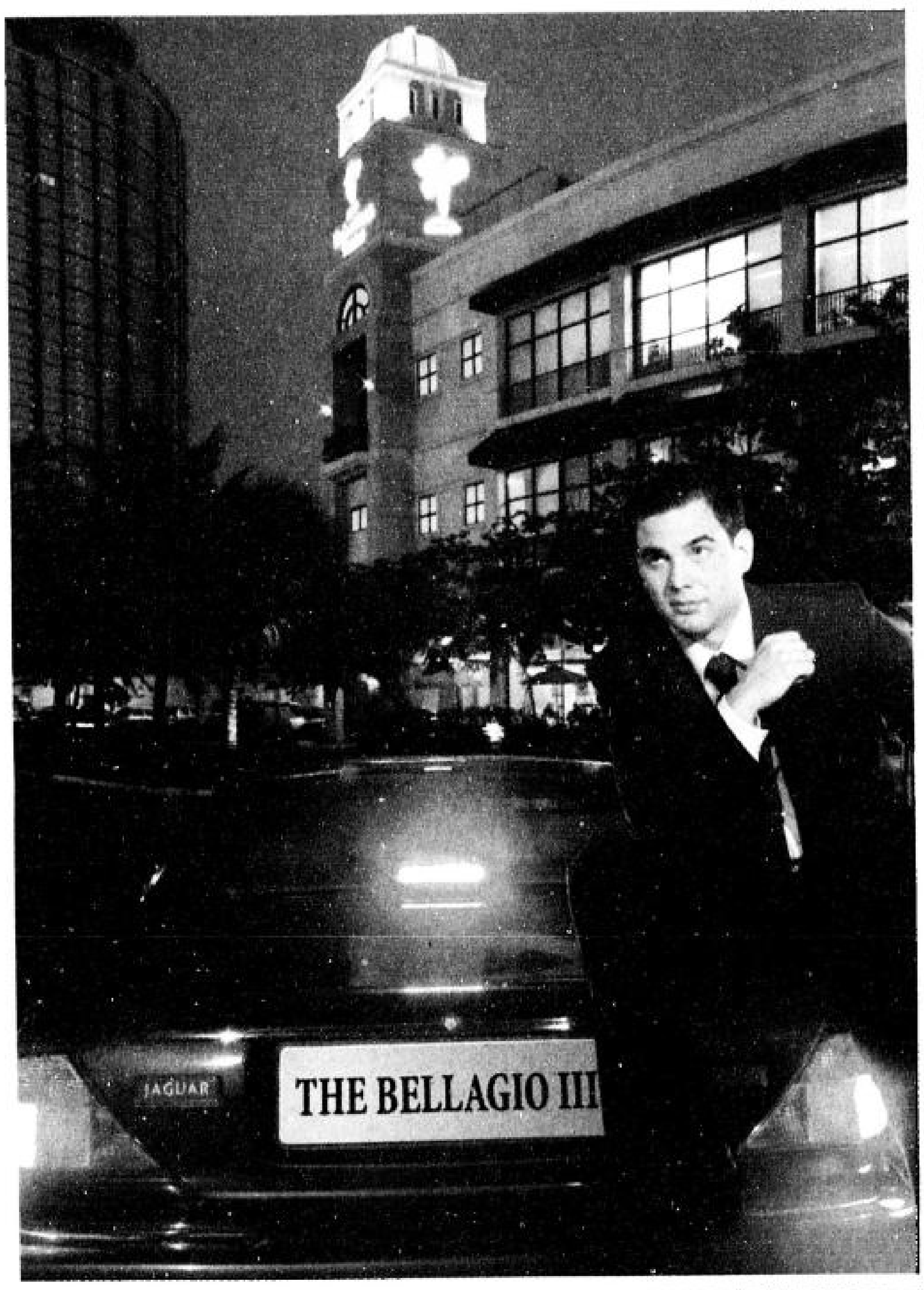
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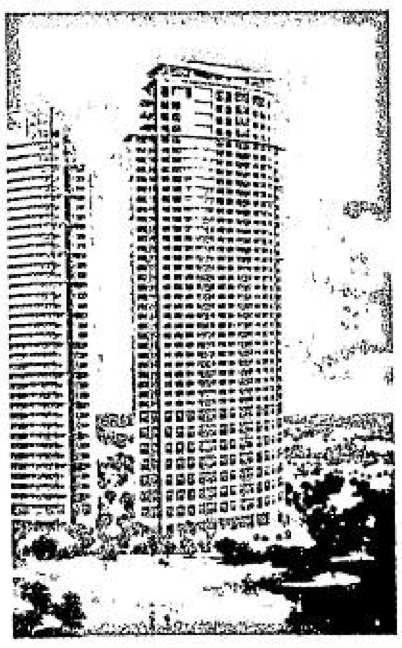

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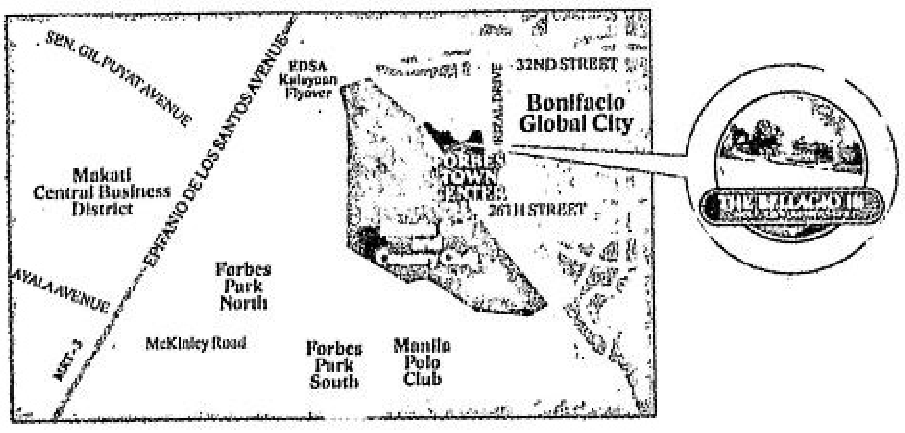
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– Edit Pam Pastor
Creat im Yap

Three fates

Cristina Garcia, Kelly Misa and Nicole Hernandez complete **Super! 3G muses** page C2

Conrad Hilton and Jamie Spears define what's **tomorrow** page D1

Happy Super! **Dad's day** to all you Super pops! pageD4

Photography and Digital Imaging: MARK NICDAO for WildBunch Studios
Styling: MILLET ARZAGA
Sittings Editor: DAVID MILAN
Makeup: MICKEY SEE of Shu Uemura
Hair: OGIE RAYEL using Kiehl's Stylist Series
Cover stars: Addict Mobile Endorsers KELLY MISA, CRISTINA GARCIA and NICOLE HERNANDEZ

'The 'three fates' control the destinies of all—even the gods are subject to their decisions'

Tim Yap

ACCORDING TO GREEK Mythology, the "Three Fates" are goddesses of destiny who watch over the fate of mortals. They handle the threads of human life, thus their power.

Back here on earth, we have Cristina Garcia, Kelly Misa and Nicole Hernandez, three heavenly specimens, goddesses in their own right. On their own, they've helped pitch sales of everything from cola to cosmetics. Together, they're the female faces that "Amp"-lify our mobile "Addict"-ion.

Cristina Garcia has trailblazed the modeling scene, jetsetting all over the world where no Filipina has ever dared to go. "At that time, they were still scared to venture out of the country. I said, 'Go!'" And off she went, conquering one major campaign after another. "I loved playing dress up ever since I was a little girl, so it was just so much fun for me doing what I do."

And we watched with bated breath as she posed, preened and played with the camera, making that distinct imprint that only she can make. Guys swoon, even girls, too. I was with Cristina (on a brief vacation from New York where she is an interior designer) in Boracay the whole summer season, and at Hey Jude!, a young actress famous for her beauty went up to her and asked to have a photo with Cristina. "Because you're so beautiful!" the celebutante gasped.

Kelly Misa typifies the girl-next-door—the sweet and sensible girl you would love to bring home to mom. And indeed she is. Kelly is the kind of girl you can trust—she exudes this down-to-earth demeanor and sincerity that makes it easy for you to find her endearing. But she's full of surprises as well. At the shoot for this year's Addict mobile campaign. I saw her sultry side when we were doing the swimsuit summer layouts. Like a true chameleon, she can hop from sweet to seductive in one snap. "I had to work hard and learn the ropes," the Asia-based Kelly looks back into her career, excited for what is to come.

Nicole Hernandez shot up to fame by being the undisputed "crush ng bayan." She even beat big-named *artistas* to be Uno's No.1 in their 100 girls list. After a slew of blue chip endorsements, this fresh-faced lass who looks like the younger version of Zhang Ziyi is looking at another career path. "I've always dreamed of becoming a designer."

Our third anniversary issue features Super's own 3G—three gorgeous girls to go gaga over, three fates of this generation, who hold magic and power and are continuing to build their destiny.

THREE/C2

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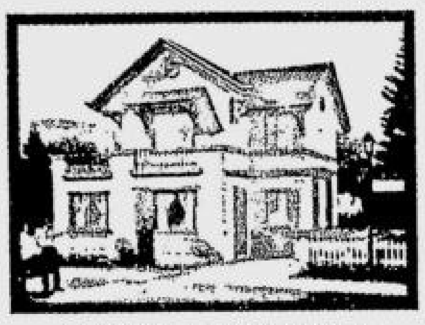

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Options

From: Claire
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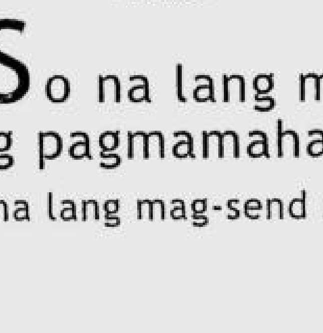

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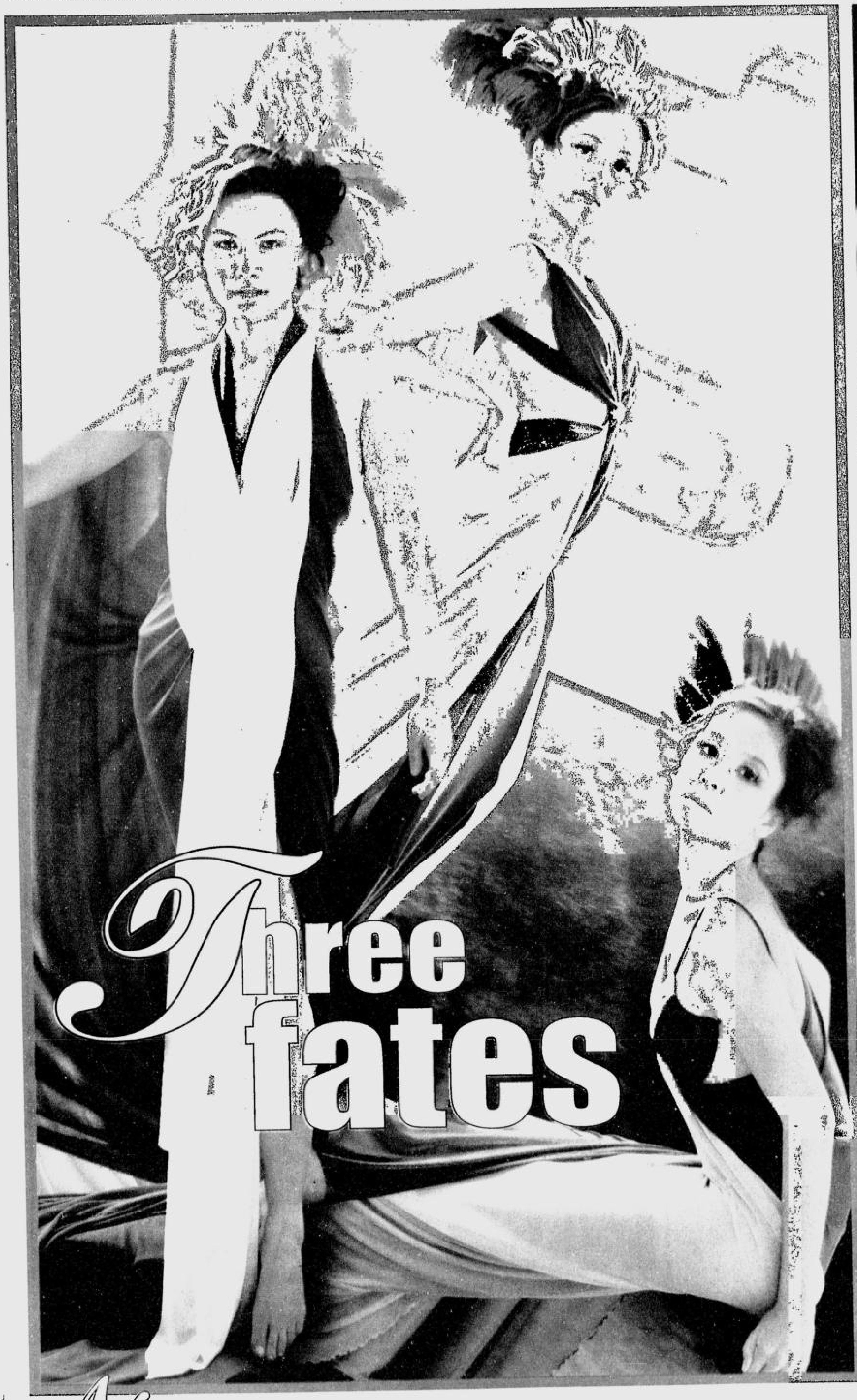


Three fates

Cristina Garcia

The thing about fame is that ... Being unaffected is the key to success. My indifference to celebrity stems from an upbringing in suburban Australia—half a world away from anything shallow.

People might be surprised to know that ... I'm a magnificent sleeper.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that ... If you are going to do anything, it's got to be worthwhile.

I wish when I started off I'd been told to ... Put stressful things into perspective.

And what this taught me was ... Live each day for each day's worth.

The secret to happiness is ... Live each day for each day's worth.

My best ever outfit consisted of a ... Champagne and a total absence of vomit.

My Super! Saturday night consists of ... La musica!

The thing that makes me most angry is ... Wasting time.

If I was the most powerful person on earth ... I would feed the world.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say ... You better be careful, there may be a few bones in that closet.

If money was no option ... I would travel all year.

When I retire, I would like ... To do exactly what I'm doing now, live in my favorite cities. It's all about the three Ms: Manila, Melbourne and Manhattan!

My hero is ... My grandmother

The thing that makes my life worth living is ... Family, friends and food.

My greatest hope for the future is ... To be happy, live a useful and fulfilled life.

The worst thing somebody said about me was ... I'm not interested in negative things people have to say about me. I'm here for the duration, so get used to it!

My favorite moments are when ... Fits of laughter are involved.

My most embarassing moment was when ... I'm outspoken so my foot is constantly in my mouth.

My biggest indulgence is ... Food, it's what I live for.

My current state of mind is ... Even keeled

My 5 favorite words are ... Imagine
Bliss
Mate
Chocolate
Sarap!

I aspire to be ... A kid forever!

Nicole Hernandez

The thing about fame is that ... it's a state of mind... it usually doesn't last if you let it consume you.

The thing I love most about what I do is ... I get to work with so many different people, travel, and learn new things... oh and the free goodies that I get from work don't hurt either! Hahaha!

People might be surprised to know that ... I was a geek in school, always studied in advance and that I loved my math subjects... actually, I think I still am a geek.

The most important thing I've ever learned is ... that it is never too late to forgive. Harboring anger or hatred inside will only eat you up. It takes more energy being mad at someone than being friends with that person.

I wish when I started off I've been told to ... dream bigger and aim higher. I was so young when I started modeling so in the beginning, I was a bit scared and shy.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was ... that I got into a bad car accident in Zapote Road, Alabang. I thought that I broke my nose because it bled when I hit the car's head rest in front of me. Some of my carpool mates got hurt as well.

And this taught me to ... always wear seatbelts no matter how near we'll drive to.

The secret to happiness is ... to always have peace of mind, live a simple life, and have faith in God.

My best ever outfit consisted of ... a short black lacy cocktail dress that Rajo Laurel made for me for a wedding. I had the whole classic look going on.

My Super! Saturday night consists of ... vegetating on the couch accompanied with lots of chips, good DVDs and my boyfriend

The soundtrack to my life would include ... BLUE SKIES!

If I was invisible for a day, I would ... rob a bank and invest millions off-shore and give some to charity... hahaha! Just kidding.

The thing that disappoints me is ... the superficiality of some people. Surprisingly though, I've found out who the true people in my life are. The best part is that some of the truest people in my life are those I least expected it from. That's what makes it even more special.

If I was the most powerful person on earth ... I would put an end to corruption and try to establish a community with a culture of generosity and fairness.

The best thing about family is that ... they are God's blessing to us.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say ... "Nicole was VERY talkative" haha... and nice, sweet, easy to get along with, thoughtful, loyal... hahaha!

If money was no option ... the world would be a better place to live in. There will be an absence of greed.

When I retire, I would like to ... have several houses around the world that I could live in for a period of time each year.

The world would be a much better place if ... people would sincerely care for each other.

My hero is ... my grandpa. He was a simple, loving and generous man.

The thing that makes my life worth living is ... the people around me, my family, friends and God.

My greatest hope for the future is ... to have all my dreams come true.

The worst thing somebody said about me is ... probably false or exaggerated.

My favorite moments are ... when I get to do simple things like having a good meal or watching a good movie with my family, friends, and boyfriend.

My most embarrassing moment was ... when I asked this famous Filipino male singer to prove that he could sing. We came from a shoot that we had together, at that time I really did not know who he was. He was such a sport when he proved that he could really sing... hahaha!

I'm saving up for ... my future.

My biggest indulgence is ... food! And the occasional shopping sprees. Haha!

My current state of mind is ... ecstatic. I'm looking forward to studying in New York. I hope I do make it into the school I want to go to.

If someone would play me in my biopic it would be ... I have no idea.

My five favorite words are ... Happiness, Love, Peace, Success, Health.

I aspire to be ... a successful designer one day.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL IMAGING:
MARK NICDAO FOR WILDBUNCH STUDIOS
STYLING MILLET ARZAGA
SITTINGS EDITOR DAVID MILAN
MAKE-UP BY MICKEY SEE OF SHU UEMURA
HAIL OGIE RAYEL USING KIEHL'S STYLIST SERIES
NICOLE'S WHITE DRESS BY DON PROTACIO (0919-8205293),
KELLY MISA & CRISTINA GARCIA'S BY JUN ESCARIO (0920-9105541)
GROUP SHOT: GOWNS BY DEXTER ALAZAS (0920-4107705)

Kelly Misa

The thing about fame is that … It makes people go crazy—everyone wants it!

The thing I love most about what I do is … I get to travel.

People might be surprised to know that … I'm really a very shy girl.

The most important thing I've ever learned is … Never hold back.

I wish I started off being told that … The grass is never really greener on the other side of the fence!

The worst thing that ever happened to me was … Spraining my ankle in a different country with absolutely no one to help me.

And what this taught me was … I can take care of myself.

The secret to happiness is … Not to look for it!

My best ever outfit consisted of a … long, flowy beach gown.

My Super! Saturday night consists of … Dinner with friends and a few bottles of wine.

The soundtrack to my life would include … Gwen Stefani's What You Waiting For?

If I was invisible for a day, I would … Go to a jewelry store.

If I was the most powerful person on earth … I will end all wars.

The best thing about family is … They should love you no matter what.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say … "So where's the after-funeral party?"

If money was no option … I would pay off the Philippines' debts, just to see what would happen next.

When I retire, I would like to … hang out and watch movies with my hubby to-be.

The world would be a much better place if … Greed could finally be cured.

My hero is … My *lola*, Rosalina Estrera Galvez.

My greatest hope for the future … No more injustice, racism and poverty.

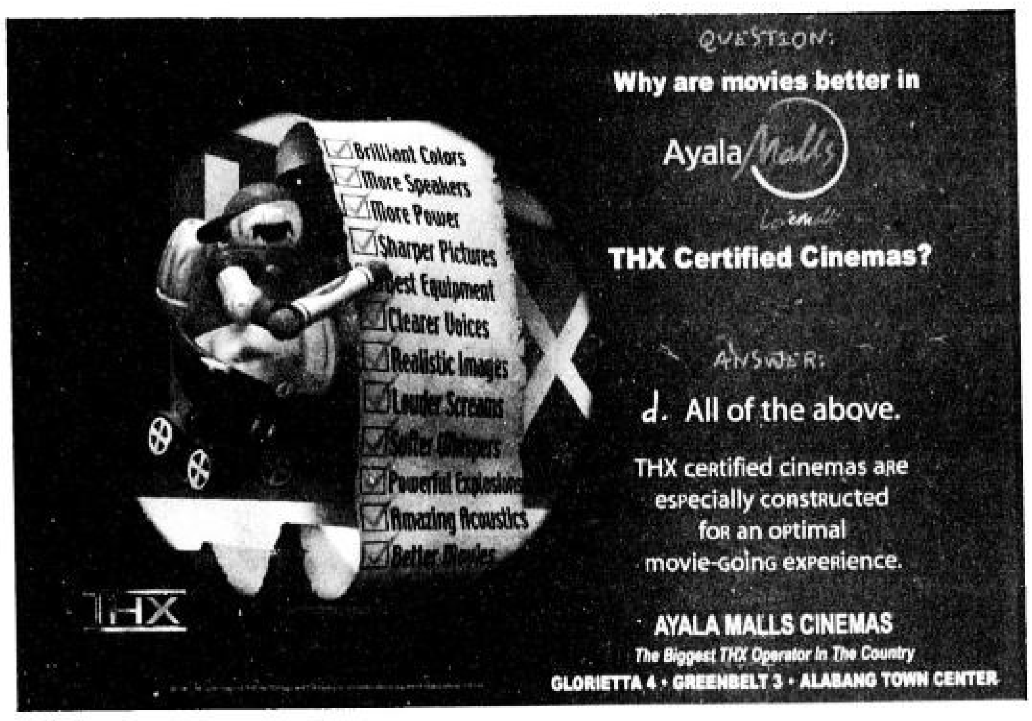
The worst thing somebody said about me was … What would you rather be called, a model or a maid? (This was in Hong Kong, after finding out I'm Filipino.

My most embarrassing moment was … when my foot fell in a hole on the sidewalk and when I took it out, it was completely soaked in thick, black sewer sludge. And it was my first and last time to wear my super cute boots!

If someone would play me in my biopic it would be … Can I play myself? My back-up though would be Natalie Portman.

My 5 favorite words are … Three words: It wasn't me!

I aspire to be … A brilliant conversationalist.



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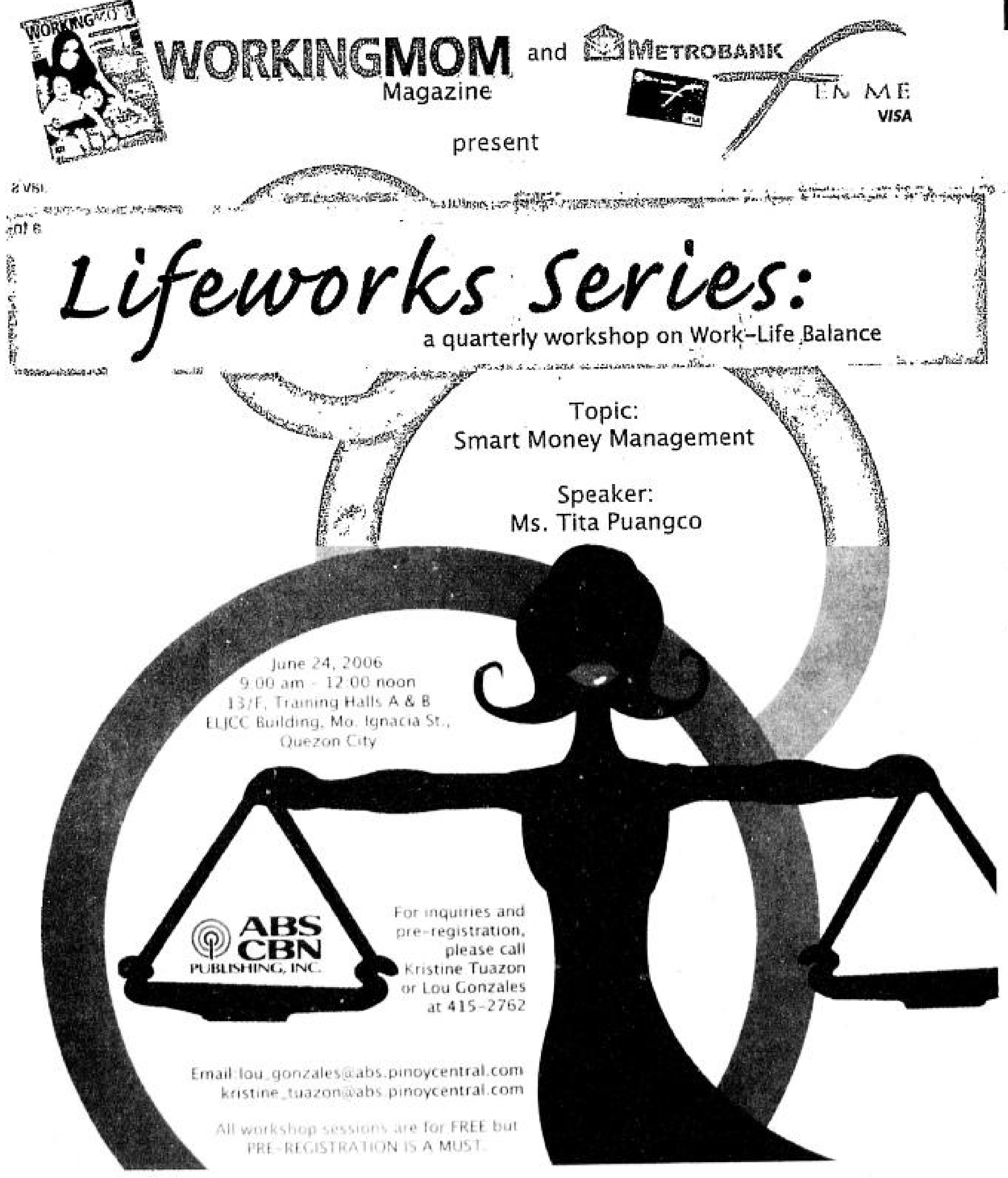

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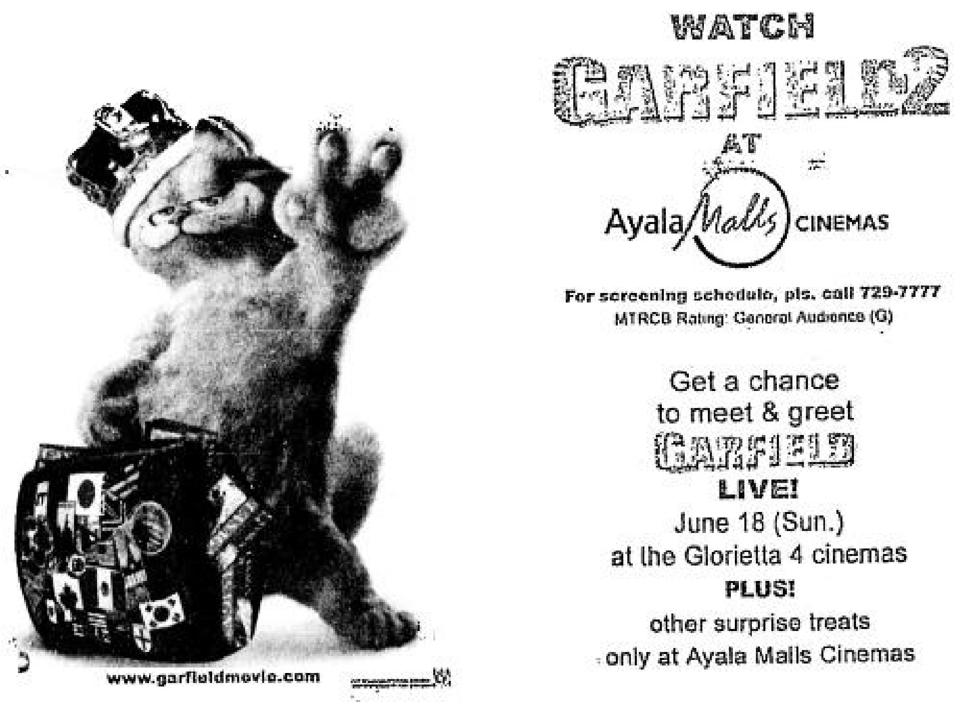

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DiGIC II

I <insert phone model here>, therefore I am.

By Pepe Diokno

CELL PHONES HAVE BECOME like extra appendages—for a lot of us, our phones have been part of our bodies since before we even started high school. Back then, we couldn't get enough of texting, the vibrating alert (admit it), and even Snake.

Infrared came in, and oh my god, we were able to play Snake with each other. (I realize that sounds more off than it should.) We showed off our new operator logos and picture messages; we couldn't stop composing monotones; we looked out for newspaper ads to see the stuff we could download.

We were given the freedom to personalize our phones. We bought different cases; we put stickers on them, and even those little dangling things. We were so proud of our personalized 5110s.

Colored screens debuted, then Bluetooth. We were ecstatic swapping stuff and wondering who has what Bluetooth ID. We weren't just able to play games against one another; we didn't even have to be facing each other! That was cool.

Then, the unthinkable happened—some genius decided to put a camera in our phones! It changed the world. God, it changed the world. It wasn't just those cool games where you had to chase mosquitos around the room. It wasn't just the birth of a class of camwh*res.

Millions of people started raising their phones to eye-level, capturing everything they see. It became so easy, and so tempting, for one to document their life. And with this came a new image of "me." We became our own icons, our own paparazzo's and stars. We started to see the importance of "me."

It's hard to separate the Me generation from their cell phones. I think it's because, together with the Internet, it created the generation. With cell phones came individuality, freedom, importance, connectivity-things that make this peer group what it is.

Tap to the future

Now, as cell phones evolve, so does our generation. It seems that we are what we can do with our phones. Within the next few years, we'll have TV on our mobiles, Internet and video calling. One day we might have movies on our mobiles too.

What does that mean for our generation?

Music and movies are one of the few things that bring people our age together. I bring my iPod around just to show my friends funny videos. Whole groups huddle around a stereo just to hear a song. They are integral parts of individuality, but music and movies on cell phones is all about sharing them with friends.

You know, it's one of the great things about our generation—we've somehow come to realize that knowing ourselves brings us closer to others. That we can personalize our phones all we want, but still be extremely connected.

It's gonna be fun—shelling out thousands just to keep up with things. Or … not. It depends.

Press 2 twice for B(ut)

Talk of new cell phone models makes me salivate sometimes. (I'm not talking about Kelly Misa, Nicole Hernandez, and Christina Garcia—they're Addict models, not cell phone models.) Heck, Engadget.com's on my Gmail RSS feed. It's fun to ogle.

But there's a problem with all this. We never asked for any of this. We've never asked for Spiderman ringtones and wallpapers. We've never asked for TV on our phones. What's happening is that the supply of possibilities creates our demand for it.

What I'm saying is, content providers want you to receive their content—they'll bring it to you no matter what. They'll make you download and stream their product. You'll lap it up, put them on your phones and have a ball. It's never been the other way around. You've never been crazy about this Koreannovela before it's been shown on air.

As things become more available, we'll get lost in everything. And when we're so lost, we'll realize, "Hey, this isn't the Me generation anymore." Cause we'll realize that we didn't make our personalities, content providers did.

Many of us are victims of this already. I'm talking about people who see themselves in their cell phones, those who attach their being onto the things they buy. Lots of us gets sucked into fads—we buy flip flops just cause they're cool or whatever.

We cannot turn this generation into one that allows companies to construct our personalities for us. That would be too much of an insult on ourselves.

So, with this influx of possibilities we should know how to weed things out. We should never be slaves of "what's in," or, "what everyone's doing."

We should also learn to separate ourselves from the material symbols of personality—you're who you are whether you're naked or clothed.

Ok, lemme put it in simple terms: Girls and boys, you're not your cell phones.

Or please, let us not be the cell phone generation.

Remember, it's "Me," and not "my cell phone".

SUPER SELECTION

A new generation of addiction

Here are more reasons teens will be so addicted to phones that an hour without their mobiles will give them withdrawal symptoms

I'M SURE YOU GUYS HAVE SEEN that ad on TV where a whole house folds up into a cell phone. Well, we haven't reached the age when cell phones double as airplanes or girlfriends, but the good news is we're getting there.

There are those of you who can't sleep without taking one, two, or fifty shots of yourself on a pillow looking all "sexy" with your camera phone. Pretty soon there are going to be people who can't go to sleep without watching a show or two on their mobiles. Or people who can't go without surfing the net with their cell phones.

One day, we will have entire dates on our phones. With four megapixel cameras, it's going to look like you're actually in the [illegible]

Look, if we're so addicted to our cell phones now, imagine how attached we'll get to them when more and more people get into Addict Mobile 3G. It's so off the hook that it's all Nicole, Kelly and Christina could talk about. Here are the highlights:

Video calling. Imagine being able to see a friend halfway around the world, being able to talk, in real time, but not being able to pick your nose while you do so. Bummer. But the rates make up for the inconvenience. Addict 3G subscribers can make international video calls to 19 countries including Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan at $0.40 per minute. Not bad, not bad.

Mobile broadband Internet. Yeah, like, why surf the net with a 1024x768 pixel screen when you can with a 352x288 pixel screen?. It's cheap, that's why—it's P20 an hour. Combine an Internet addiction with a mobile phone addiction—and you might just need an intervention.

Live TV. This is great. Now, couch potatoes will have at least one form of exercise—for their thumbs. It's clearly a breakthrough. There are some of you (and I do hope it's a small "some") who get a thrill out of seeing Willie Revillame on your screens—congratulations, 'cause you'll be able to. And if you miss his latest Wowowee episode, you can watch his show (and other ABS-CBN and GMA7 shows) on-demand through Addict 3G's Mobile TV.

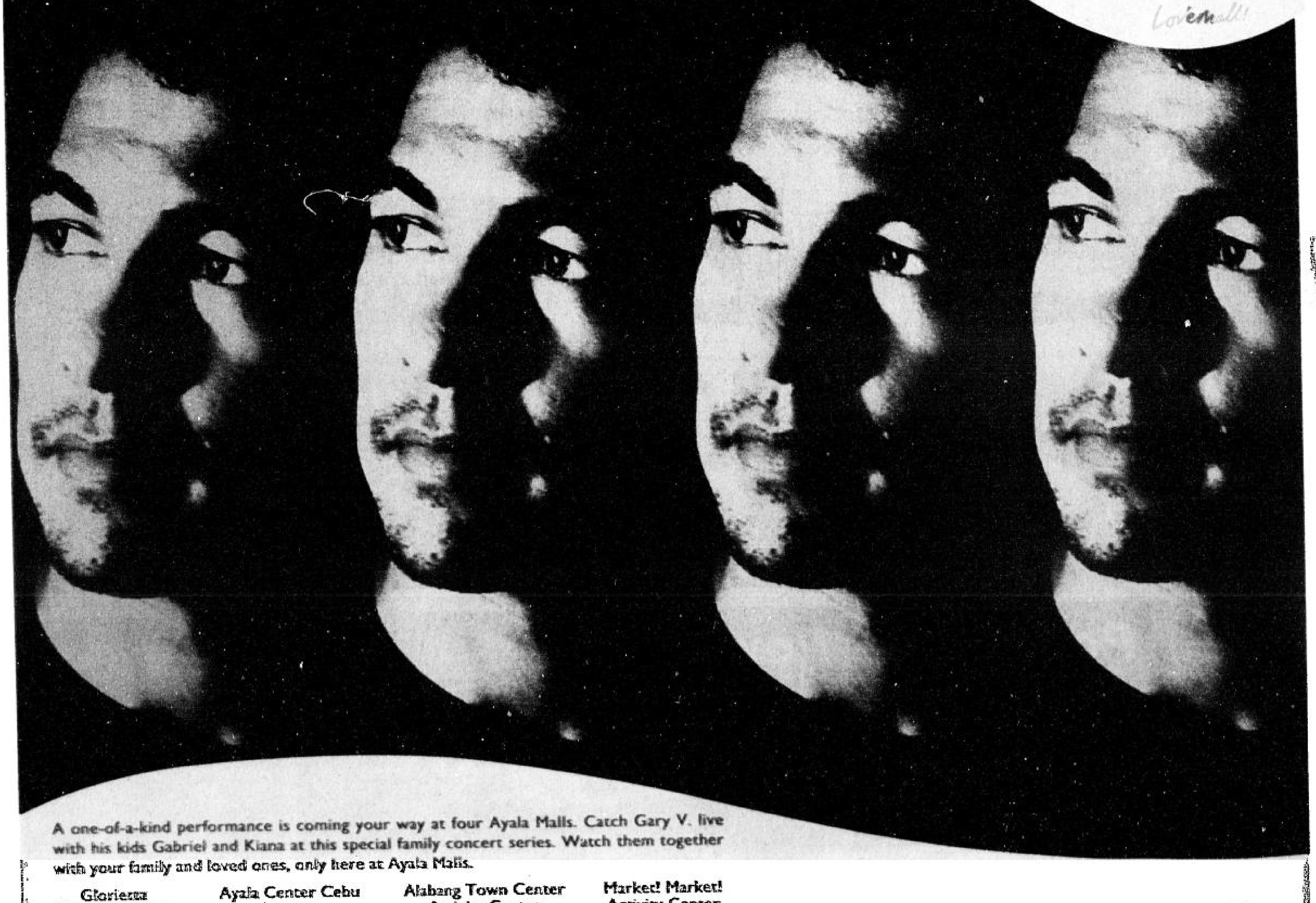
Music. Movies. Somewhere inside me, I feel a slight tinge of regret for buying a new iPod. Ok, it's more than a slight tinge. Addict 3G mobile lets us download full music tracks, music videos, and the latest movie trailers and video clips. We once picked up phones; now we're picking up entire media centers. I should've just gotten a phone. But shh.

It's a whole new mobile world, and I predict that one day, we'll press the power button on our phones and our whole houses will fold up. Perfect for earthquakes, don't you think?

Pepe Diokno

GARY V AT IV AYALA MALLS.

Ayala Malls Lovemalls



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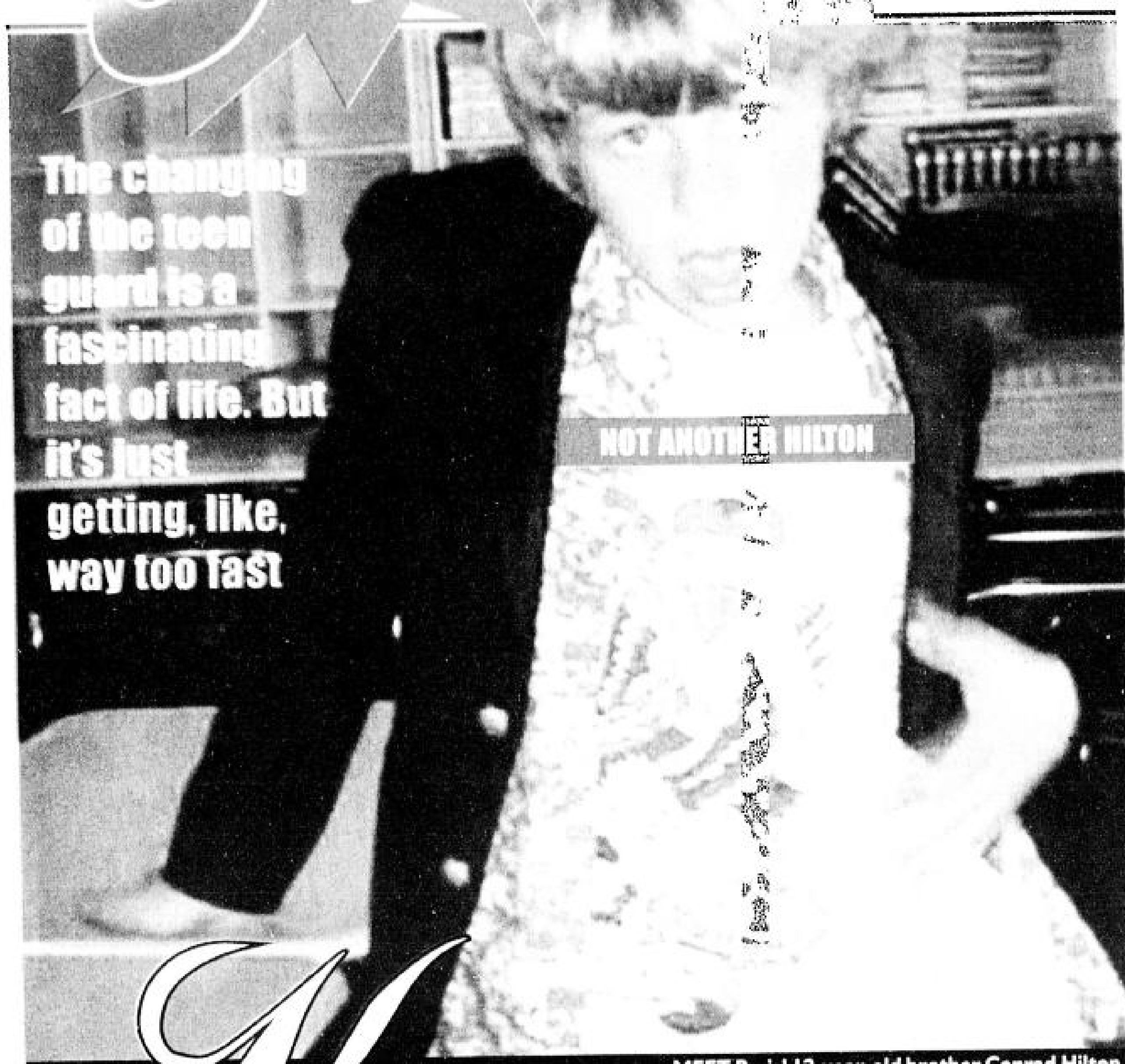


The changing of the teen guard is a fascinating fact of life. But it's just getting, like, way too fast

NOT ANOTHER HILTON

MEET Paris' 12-year-old brother Conrad Hilton

Kiss tomorrow hello

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

AT THE DAWN OF this millennium, pop announced its identity to our generation, an extra special shout-out brimming with boyband backflips and some spanking Mouseketeer ears. "Britney or Christina?" was a legit question—a deal-breaker in certain situations—that stretched out the stonewashed denim dreams of our Gen-X forerunners.

The then-ultimate eye candy dispenser of tween-teen culture? It was easily Britney, VH1's #1 Teen Idol of Our Time circa three years ago. That said, the easy-breezy goings-on of 2003 might seem too recent to revisit. And yeah, we might also be a bit too young to be so nostalgic. (Speaking of, where is Miss Spears now? We'll get to that in a sec.)

But as far as our junior galaxy is concerned, the jump from then to now has been carnival-freak crazy. Loaded with poptastic watersheds too many to be ignored, the changing of the teen guard has become not so much a fantasy sequence but, like, a fascinating fact of life.

Teen timeline

It was around 1941 when the term teenager was believed to have first appeared in an article in Popular Science Monthly, according to Time Magazine's Nancy Gibbs. In a 2005 special report, "Being 13," she summed up the teen timeline like this: "Our notions of childhood are relatively recent innovations, and when parents lament that today's children 'grow up too fast,' it is worth asking 'Compared to when?'"

It's true that today's teens—thriving in a competitive push-button publishing world—are a new breed. Then again, so were the ones that came before them.

"Worldly, interesting, informed and even intellectual when barely out of childhood, young kids all over the U.S. are pulling down the age to teendom. Even as they do, the affluent society is pushing up the average age of school leaving. The lengthened span of teen-agery is further fattened by a growth rate of the teen-age population that is four times as high as the U.S. average." You may think that this observation is straight out of the blogosphere, but surprise: It came out 40-ish years ago—Jan. 29, 1965 to be exact—in, again, Time Magazine.

Yesterday's up-and-comers

We follow certain coming-of-age templates as we evolve. But the game goes ape once you sprinkle reality TV, peer-to-peer technology, and aggressive me-centric marketing into the mix. Things get even more abbreviated than Andy Warhol's prescribed 15 minutes; this is de facto especially in the teen pop culture scene. I mean, just ask Britney.

Jog your memory back to simpler times when Britney Spears was still earning her training wheels as a seventeen-year-old in a racy schoolgirl outfit. It's hard to believe that since then, Brit has been a virgin, not a virgin, married, divorced, a lesbian, not a lesbian, married again, pregnant, an unfit parent, pregnant again, and almost divorced—all by the ripe old age of 24. Or not.

The Veronica to her Betty, Christina Aguilera hasn't been so awesome lately either. After wowing the world with cute songs about genies in bottles and stuff, the hits started drying up for the ex-Mouseketeer. Which is a shame, since before she transformed into a scary skank with more wardrobe gimmicks than a pro wrestler, she was doing really well. Really.

Today's teen machines

While those two were keeping yesterday's youth economy flowing, the current crop of hotshots was probably sipping smoothies on a shopping mall escalator. Previously backstage kids waiting on tiptoe, they are now the golden standard as far as the teenage species goes.

Lindsay Lohan's career trajectory seems to be based on her own movie, the snarkily-written "Mean Girls." From a sweet-yet-mousy tween in "The Parent Trap" ("Mean Girls" equivalent: entering as a teen home-schooled in Africa), LiLo, as she is derisively called, has turned into a favorite tabloid target ("Mean Girls" equivalent: becoming a member of The Plastics).

Hilary Duff's life, on the other hand, hasn't been as peppered with drug scandals, public feuds, or boyfriend-swapping bouts. But her squeaky clean image has forced some critics to instead pan her talents, deeming her attempts at acting ("Cheaper By The Dozen 2" gets a special mention) as being deep like a kiddie pool.

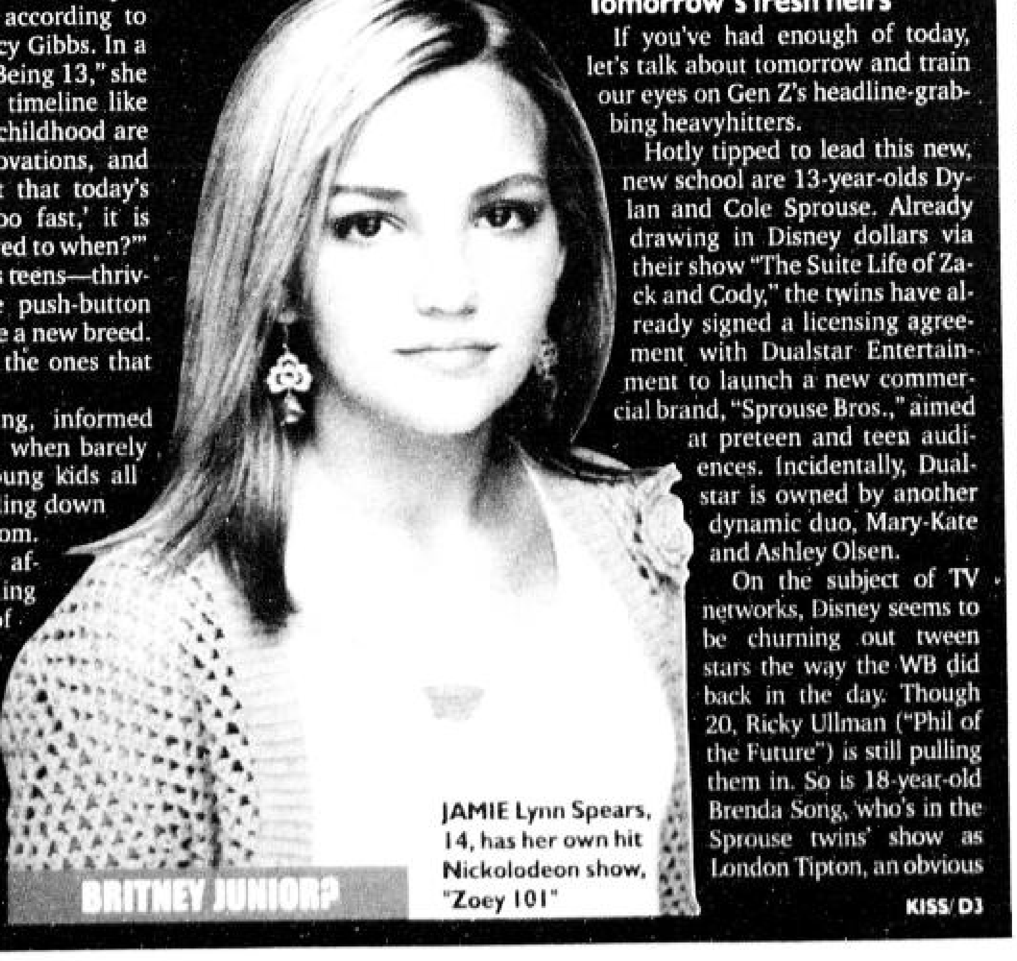
Tomorrow's fresh heirs

If you've had enough of today, let's talk about tomorrow and train our eyes on Gen Z's headline-grabbing heavyhitters.

Hotly tipped to lead this new, new school are 13-year-olds Dylan and Cole Sprouse. Already drawing in Disney dollars via their show "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody," the twins have already signed a licensing agreement with Dualstar Entertainment to launch a new commercial brand, "Sprouse Bros.," aimed at preteen and teen audiences. Incidentally, Dualstar is owned by another dynamic duo, Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen.

On the subject of TV networks, Disney seems to be churning out tween stars the way the WB did back in the day. Though 20, Ricky Ullman ("Phil of the Future") is still pulling them in. So is 18-year-old Brenda Song, who's in the Sprouse twins' show as London Tipton, an obvious

KISS/D3



BRITNEY JUNIOR?

JAMIE Lynn Spears, 14, has her own hit Nickolodeon show, "Zoey 101"

Eating Tips to Prevent Obesity for Life

by Tina Juan

Adult health banes such as heart disease and hypertension start early on in life. Not only do obese children have higher blood pressure and cholesterol levels than normal weight children, but their lifestyle habits are formed during childhood. Couch potato kids and junior junk food junkies develop into adults with bad eating habits, suffering weight problems even if they were not overweight as children.

It is hypocritical to force a child to exercise when you do not. Many child weight loss experts say that the most difficult part of their work is to convince parents to make changes in their lifestyles to set an example for their children.

Generally, experts agree that a child is overweight when he or she is 20 percent above the normal weight for that height and age. Check with your pediatrician or family doctor for the appropriate height-weight charts.

EATING TIPS TO PREVENT OBESITY IN CHILDREN

Seek professional advice.
If you want a specific diet plan that lists the right amount of food and the correct balance of nutrients, consult a registered dietician or nutritionist.

Exert your parental authority.
Parents are key to preventing children from becoming overweight because they exert the greatest control on a young child. Mothers, in particular, control what is bought at the grocery and how food is cooked at home. Both parents decide what restaurants the family will dine in. Use your authority wisely and do not allow your children to eat foods that contain more preservatives and artificial ingredients than health-building nutrients.

Do not put the child on a "diet".
This may stunt their growth and develop in them an unhealthy attitude toward food, leading them to develop an eating disorder. Rather, give them the types of food in amounts appropriate to their specific stage of growth. This information is also available from a nutritionist or the many books on children's health and nutrition.

Do not focus on weight loss.
You might be sending the wrong message about food and exercise by constantly harping on weight loss. Sensible eating habits and regular physical activity should be encouraged for healthy gains and not just for weight loss.

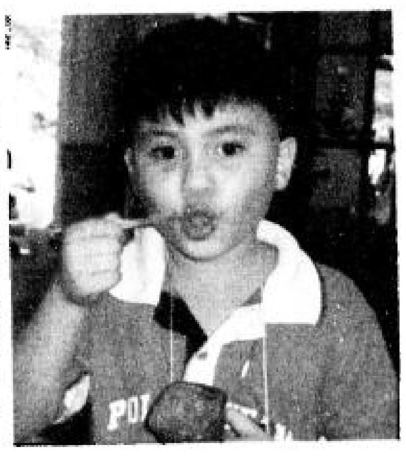
Encourage; do not nag.
Nagging an adult to lose weight doesn't work; neither does it work for kids. Encourage your kids to eat healthy food by making sure it is tasty, well-prepared, and easily available at home.

Control the temptation.
If you have to take children to the mall, feed them a healthy meal before leaving the house so they don't beg for a trip to the nearest fast food joint. If you are also trying to lose weight, this will work for you too.

If you're at the grocery with your kids, plan your grocery shopping and do your best to avoid passing the snacks and sweets sections. Staying in control of their cravings while shopping is easiest if you make it a rule not to shop when you're hungry.

Avoid eating in front of the TV.
This is called "mindless eating" because the mind is preoccupied with the TV and is not "aware" of how much food is actually being consumed.

Don't bring "problem" foods home.
You may not be able to control what food your kids buy in school but you can control what they eat at home. This is the simplest and most effective way to rid your home of unwanted calories and the best strategy in introducing your children to good nutrition. Provide your children a healthy and nutritious home by stocking up on fruits, vegetables, whole grain cereals and bread, lean meats, poultry and seafood, and low-fat dairy products. Serve natural fiber-rich foods for snacks like boiled corn, boiled or baked sweet potato (camote), boiled bananas instead of high-sodium, high-fat, high-calorie processed snacks.



Don't force children to finish their food.
According to experts, children have a built-in appetite mechanism that is surprisingly accurate. Parents who force their children to eat even when they aren't hungry, tamper with this appetite mechanism and the children might grow up into adults who eat non-stop.

Be aware of "emotional overeating".
When there is stress and tension in a child's life due to family or school problems, they can be prone to "emotional overeating" as an outlet for their frustrations. A child's emotional health will have to be addressed first before tackling the issue of overeating.

Do not use food as a bribe or reward.
Children who are comforted, bribed or rewarded with food grow up into adults who use food to comfort themselves when stressed out or to reward themselves or a job well done.

Start good eating habits early.
Kids develop a "sweet" or "salty" tooth at a young age. Experts say that if young children are not allowed to get used to these strong tastes, they have a better chance of developing good eating habits because their taste buds will not crave these types of foods.

As a parent, always tell yourself that if you want your kids to live healthy, you will have to take an honest assessment of your own lifestyle because kids will follow what you do more than what you say.

Tina Juan is the resident health and fitness expert of the Gizmo Advisory Board (GAB), an advocacy group that promoted the responsible mobile connectivity for the youth. Composed of top parenting, communication, and learning experts, GAB is convened by Globe Gizmo Prepaid – the country's first prepaid mobile brand for kids – in order to lend their insights and expertise on child-friendly connectivity options and interactive learning opportunities.

GLOBE GIZMOBITS PREPAID

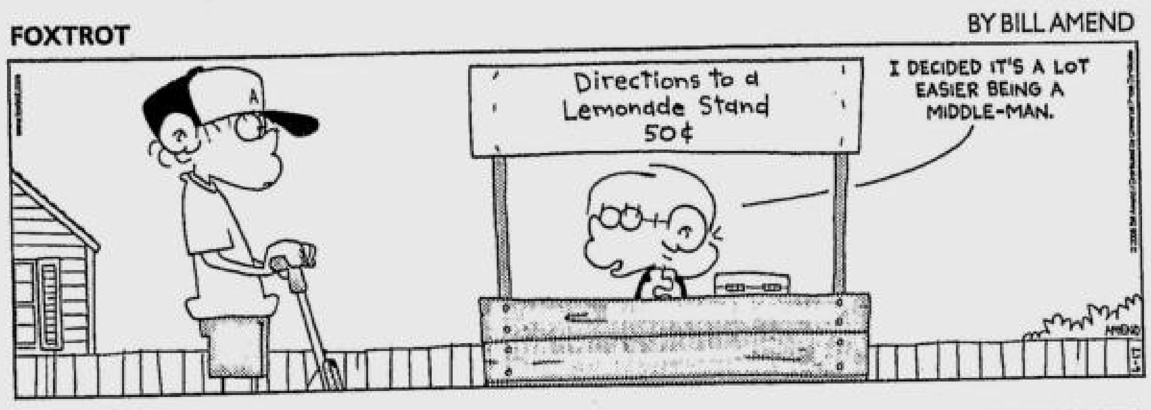
One of the GAB's flagship projects was the development of Gizmobits, a FREE educational service offering daily fun facts in four different areas.
MYMIND has study tips and helpful facts about science and other subjects; MYWORLD introduces kids to diverse sights and traditions here and abroad; MYCONNECTIONS teaches kids how to connect with themselves, with others, and with God; while MYBODY is all about proper hygiene, nutrition, and fitness. Your child can avail of this free service if they are using a Globe Gizmo SIM. Your child just needs to text GIZMOBITS to 2811 to access the educational tips mentioned above.

For past articles and exercises or to suggest future topics, go to www.tinajuanfitness.info.

ang lakas mo sa Globe

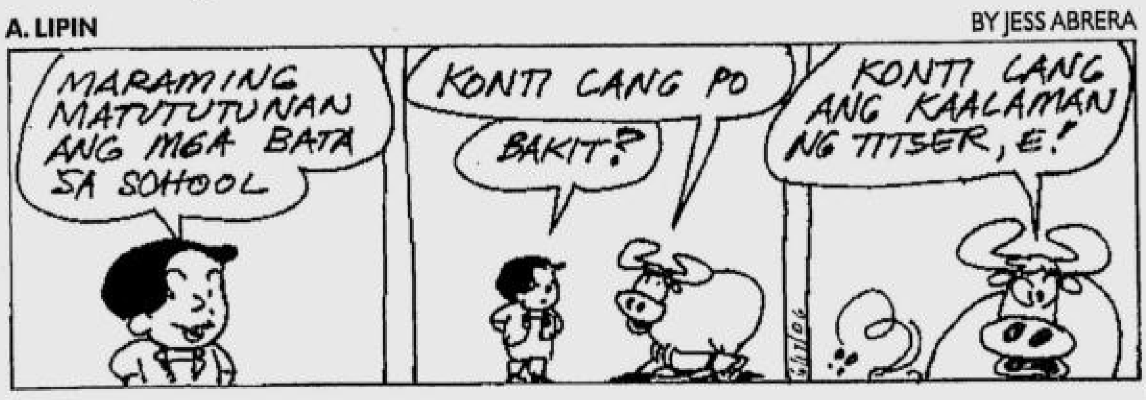
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


Directions to a Lemonade Stand 50¢
I DECIDED IT'S A LOT EASIER BEING A MIDDLE-MAN.

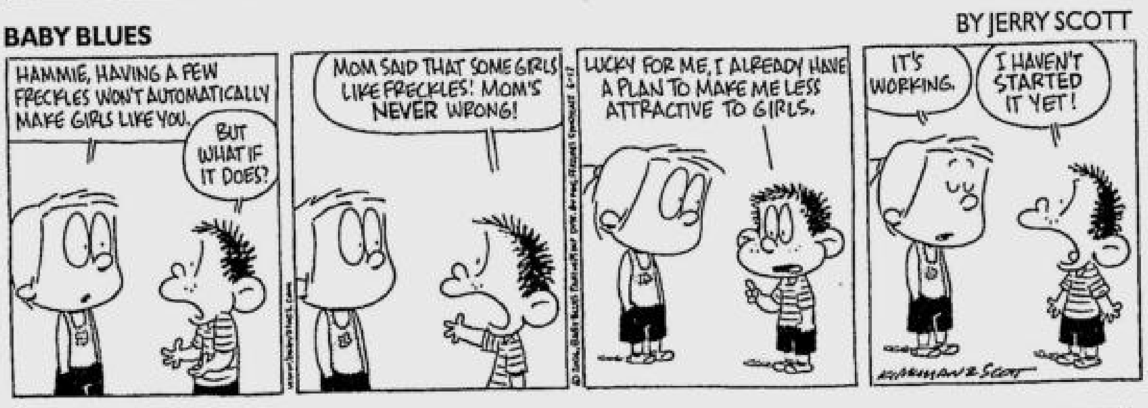
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MARAMING MATUTUTUNAN ANG MGA BATA SA SCHOOL
KONTI LANG PO
BAKIT?
KONTI LANG ANG KAALAMAN NG TITSER, E!

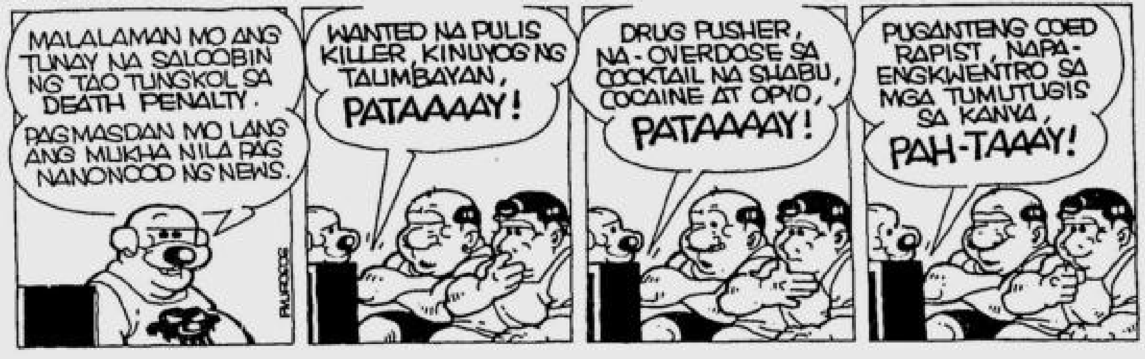
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE, HAVING A FEW FRECKLES WON'T AUTOMATICALLY MAKE GIRLS LIKE YOU.
BUT WHAT IF IT DOES?
MOM SAID THAT SOME GIRLS LIKE FRECKLES! MOM'S NEVER WRONG!
LUCKY FOR ME, I ALREADY HAVE A PLAN TO MAKE ME LESS ATTRACTIVE TO GIRLS.
IT'S WORKING.
I HAVEN'T STARTED IT YET!

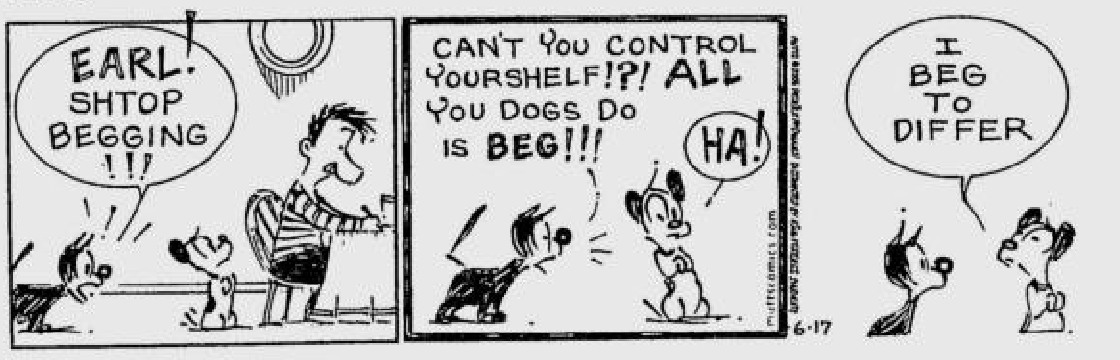
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MALALAMAN MO ANG TUNAY NA SALOOBIN NG TAO TUNGKOL SA DEATH PENALTY.
PAGMASDAN MO LANG ANG MUKHA NILA PAG NANONOOD NG NEWS.
WANTED NA PULIS KILLER, KINUYOG NG TAUMBAYAN, PATAAAAY!
DRUG PUSHER, NA-OVERDOSE SA COCKTAIL NA SHABU, COCAINE AT OPYO, PATAAAAY!
PUGANTENG COED RAPIST, NAPA-ENGKWENTRO SA MGA TUMUTUGIS SA KANYA, PAH-TAAAY!

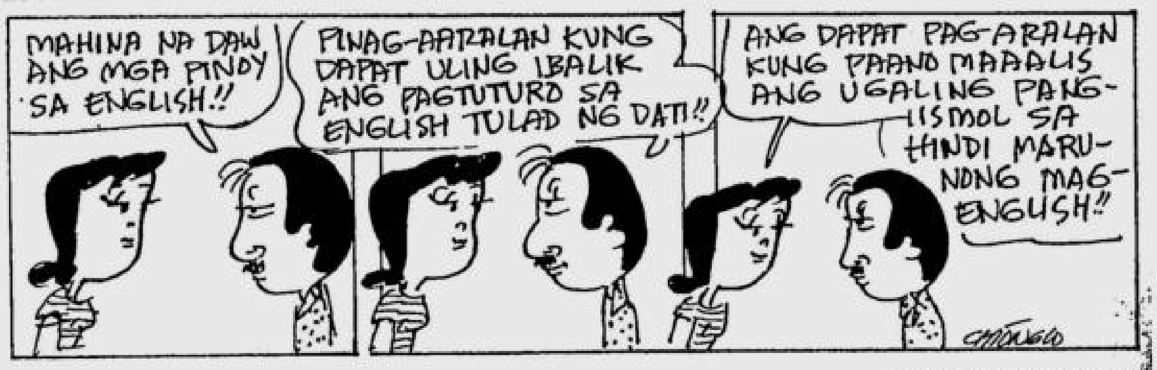
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL! SHTOP BEGGING!!!
CAN'T YOU CONTROL YOURSHELF!?! ALL YOU DOGS DO IS BEG!!!
HA!
I BEG TO DIFFER
6-17

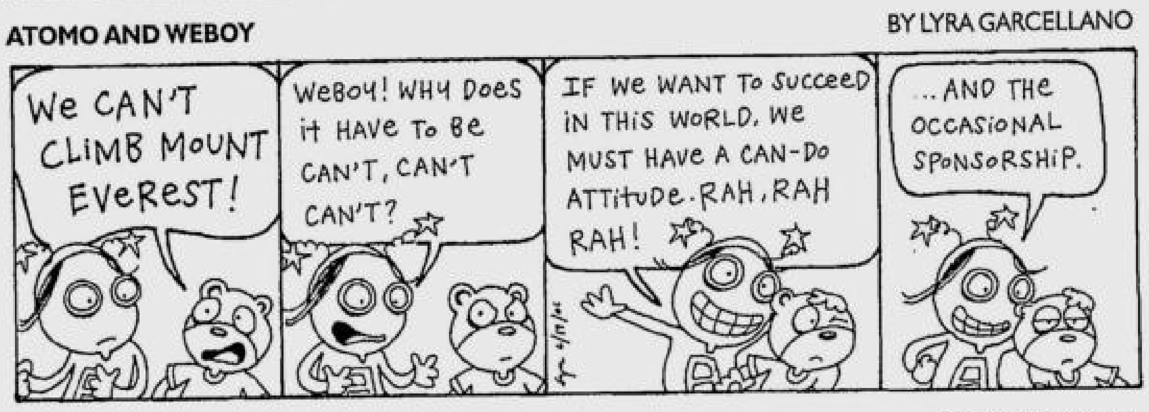
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAHINA NA DAW ANG MGA PINOY SA ENGLISH!!
PINAG-AARALAN KUNG DAPAT ULING IBALIK ANG PAGTUTURO SA ENGLISH TULAD NG DATI!!
ANG DAPAT PAG-ARALAN KUNG PAANO MAAALIS ANG UGALING PANG-IISMOL SA HINDI MARUNONG MAG-ENGLISH!!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

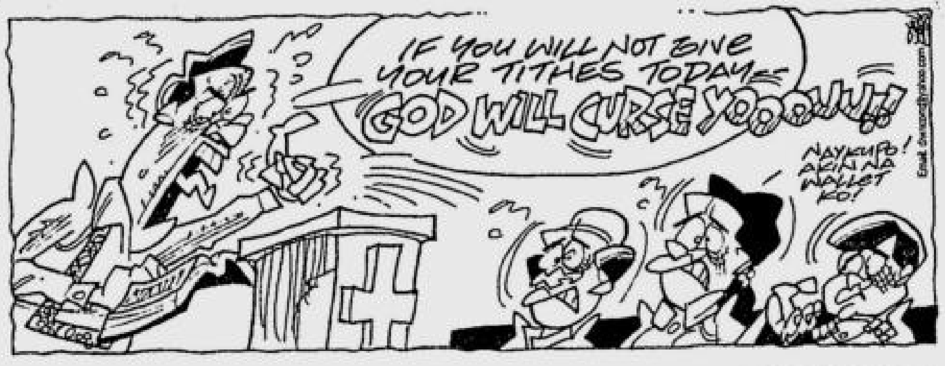

We CAN'T CLIMB MOUNT EVeREST!
WeBoy! WHY Does it HAVe To Be CAN'T, CAN'T CAN'T?
IF We WANT To Succeed iN THiS WoRLD, We MUST HAVe A CAN-Do ATTitude. RAH, RAH RAH!
...AND The OCCASioNAL SPoNSoRSHiP.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

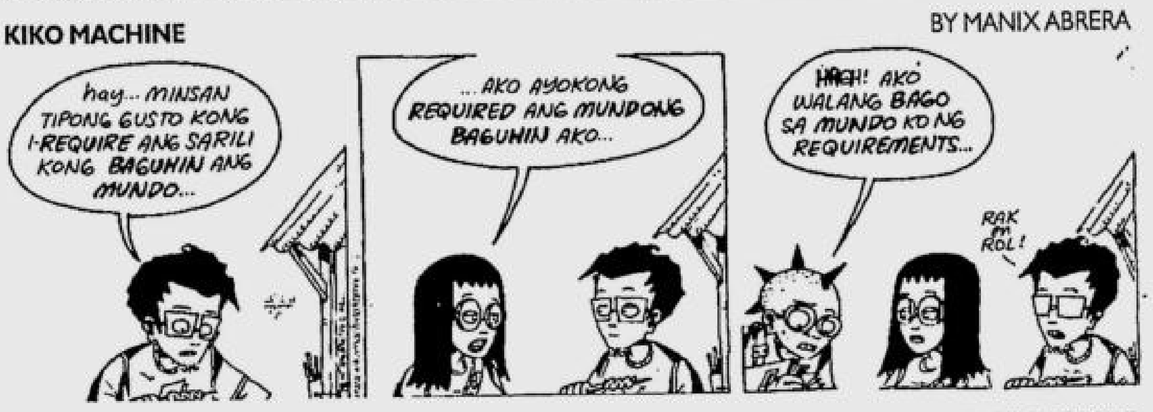
ALAM MONG WALA NANG PERA ANG CHURCH MO KUNG.....

NAPAKA-ELOQUENT NG PASTOR MO KUNG MAGBIGAY NG CHALLENGE TUWING OFFERING TIME


IF YOU WILL NOT GIVE YOUR TITHES TODAY GOD WILL CURSE YOOOUU!!
NAYKUPO! AKIN NA WALLET KO!

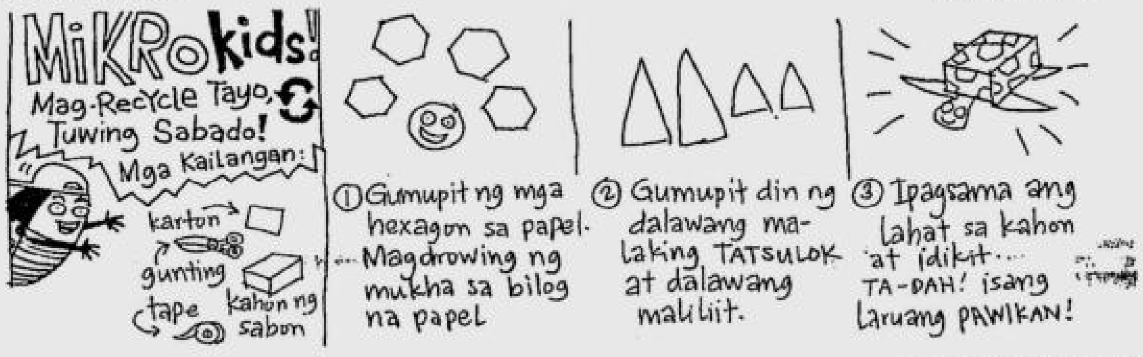
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hay... MINSAN TIPONG GUSTO KONG I-REQUIRE ANG SARILI KONG BAGUHIN ANG MUNDO...
...AKO AYOKONG REQUIRED ANG MUNDONG BAGUHIN AKO...
HAGH! AKO WALANG BAGO SA MUNDO KO NG REQUIREMENTS...
RAK EN ROL!

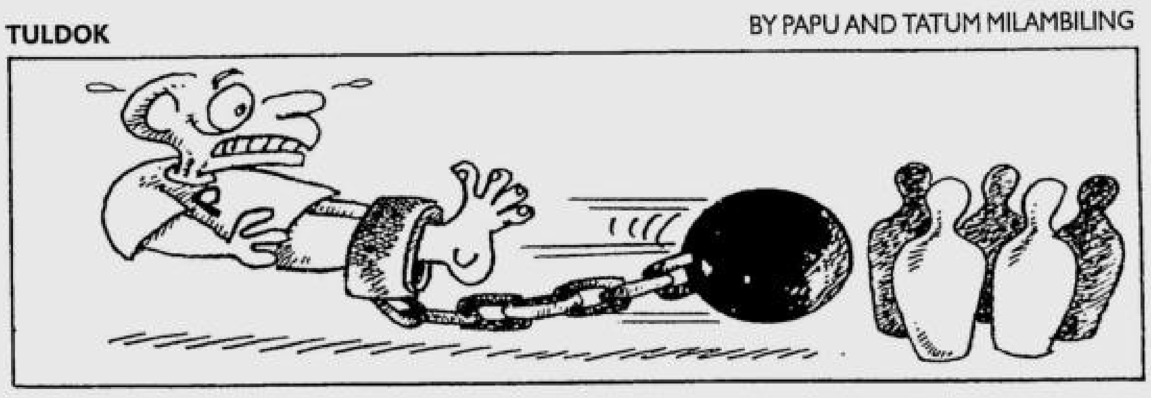
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRoKids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
karton
gunting
tape
kahon ng sabon
① Gumupit ng mga hexagon sa papel. Magdrowing ng mukha sa bilog na papel
② Gumupit din ng dalawang malaking TATSULOK at dalawang maliliit.
③ Ipagsama ang lahat sa kahon at idikit... TA-DAH! isang laruang PAWIKAN!

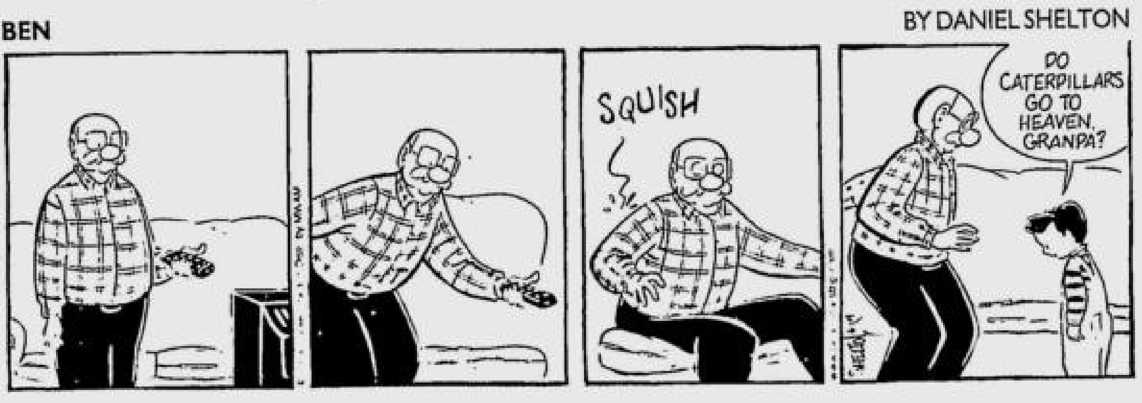
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

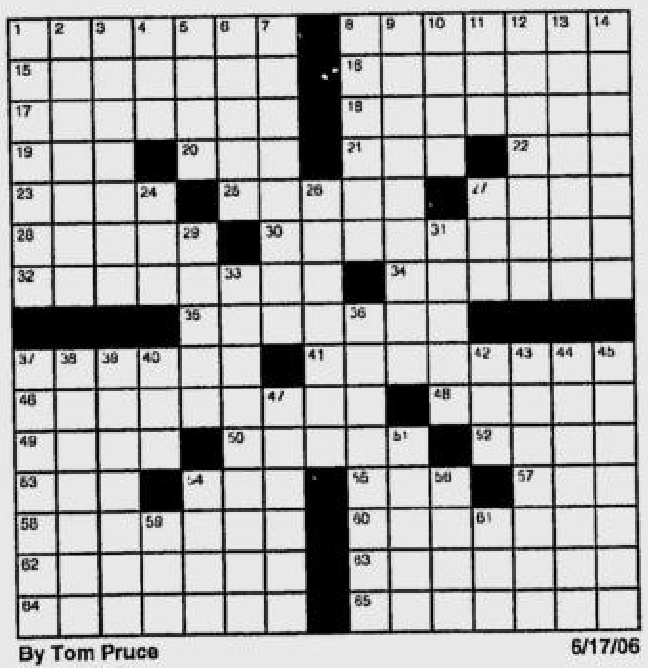


BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SQUISH
DO CATERPILLARS GO TO HEAVEN, GRANPA?

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

6/17/06

ACROSS
1 Conforms
8 Rick of "Ghostbusters"
15 Difficult problem
16 Eagerness
17 One end of a sleeve
18 Won back
19 Chop off
20 Unite
21 Intense anger
22 __ pro nobis
23 Soul singer Redding
25 Aroma
27 Smacking blow
28 Ghost costume
30 Alaskan chain
32 City on Onondaga Lake
34 Like some birds
35 Tastefully luxurious
37 "Romeo and Juliet" role
41 Open to litigation
46 Newspaper banners
48 Certain runner
49 Jug handles
50 One subatomic particle
52 Author of "Death in Venice"
53 Yow, it's cold!
54 Raven's cry
55 Way cool!
57 Conk out
58 Bring to life
60 Censorious speeches
62 City on the Ganges
63 Obvious
64 Nervous to the max
65 Expels from a country

DOWN
1 Perplexed
2 Dandridge of "Carmen Jones"
3 More likely to bolt
4 That's disgusting!
5 Display
6 Flooring squares
7 Aril
8 USMC word
9 Capsizes
10 Ceremonial practice
11 Oklahoma town
12 Rimski-Korsakov's first name
13 Repeating
14 Nerve junction
24 Neptune's realm
26 Mournful poems
27 Pose for shots
29 Immune system component
31 Jazz pianist Art
33 Maximums
36 Consisting of various kinds
37 George Herman Ruth
38 Had strong cravings
39 Blocking
40 Promos
42 Objective
43 Distensible sac
44 Indulgent
45 Tubb and Truex
47 Most recent
51 Gullible
54 Concern
56 Problem with a tap
59 __ tai cocktail
61 Hustle and bustle

Friday's Puzzle Solved

L	A	P	A	Z	■	J	I	G	■	K	C	A	R	S
A	R	U	B	A	■	I	R	A	■	R	E	C	A	P
I	N	R	E	M	■	H	O	W	■	U	L	T	R	A
R	I	P	■	B	L	A	C	K	V	E	L	V	E	T
D	E	L	T	O	I	D	■	■	A	G	A	■	■	■
■	■	E	O	N	S	■	P	A	P	E	R	B	A	G
M	A	R	D	I	■	C	O	L	O	R	■	R	C	A
R	E	A	D	■	J	O	K	E	R	■	B	O	H	R
S	R	I	■	T	U	N	E	S	■	C	O	W	E	R
C	O	N	S	O	L	E	D	■	M	O	W	N	■	■
■	■	■	C	R	I	■	■	V	A	N	E	S	S	A
G	R	E	E	N	O	N	I	O	N	S	■	U	L	M
M	A	G	N	A	■	E	N	D	■	I	N	G	O	T
A	V	O	I	D	■	A	S	K	■	S	E	A	T	O
C	I	S	C	O	■	P	T	A	■	T	O	R	S	O

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6/17/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're goal-oriented. (You have your eye on the prize.) This is why you have high standards and place big demands on yourself. You have a fine mind. You're aware of relationships and spatial connections. You work well with changing conditions, which is why you like to travel. In the year ahead, if you work hard to construct something, you'll be pleased.
Birthdate of: M.C. Escher, graphic artist; Venus Williams, tennis player; Jello Biafra, singer/performer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Parents must be patient with children today, even if things feel world-weary or burdensome. Artists can work hard with what is at hand

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be patient with family members today. It won't be easy, but on the other hand, you have great stamina and endurance today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your mind is made up about something. Nothing will dissuade you. You can maintain this position, but you don't have to make others agree with you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're willing to work very hard to earn money today. You won't mind doing whatever is routine, dull and boring. You're prepared to do whatever it takes.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have great determination today. You can work long hours, doing relatively boring, routine work. Use this opportunity to your best advantage.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): If you think somebody is working behind the scenes against you, you might be right. On the other hand, this same astrological aspect means you can work very well alone today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Because you have to respond to the needs of others (possibly a group), your freedom of activity is curtailed. Work with what you've got; do the best you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Although you're very ambitious now, bosses and authority figures might stand in your way. Don't make a big deal about this. Just do what you can. Don't make waves.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Because your powers of concentration are great today, you can make headway in areas connected with education, the media, publishing and dealing with foreign countries. You're in the groove.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You can't get something from others if they won't give it to you today. Just let things unfold in their own time. (Once a year, a snake sheds its skin to stay alive. But if you pull off its skin, you'll kill it.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Dealings with partners and close friends are contentious or a bit grim today. Respect where others are coming from. Don't push the river.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You can accomplish a great deal today at work. You're willing to do routine, repetitive tasks. You simply want to get the job done. Good.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

4		3				5		7
			7	2	8			
	3		4		5		1	
	2			1			5	
	7		6		2		8	
			5	8	6			
9		8				6		4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

6/17

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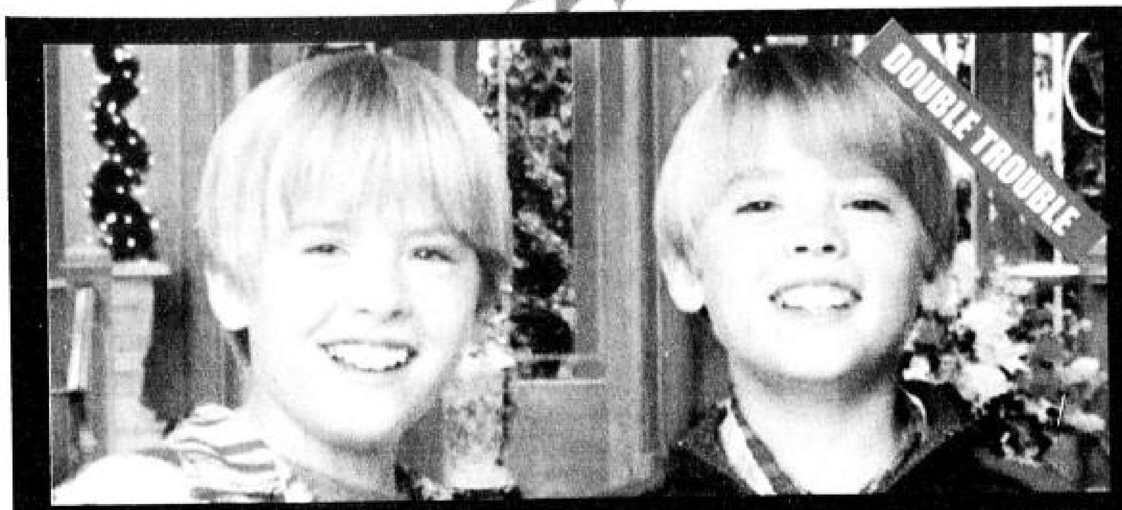
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	2	5	8	9	7	3	6	4
6	4	9	5	3	2	7	1	8
7	3	8	4	6	1	2	5	9
8	9	4	6	2	3	1	7	5
3	1	2	7	4	5	8	9	6
5	6	7	1	8	9	4	2	3
4	8	1	9	7	6	5	3	2
2	7	6	3	5	8	9	4	1
9	5	3	2	1	4	6	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★



13-YEAR old twins Dylan and Cole Sprouse are the new Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen

Kiss tomorrow hello

From page D1

spoof of airhead heiress Paris Hilton. Nickelodeon, on the other hand, has 14-year-old Jamie Lynn Spears, Britney's sister, who headlines her own smash show, "Zoey 101," and Emma Roberts, Julia Roberts' 15-year-old niece, who has "Unfabulous." While Fox may have lost Mischa Barton's character Marissa Cooper on "The O.C.," the suits have lost no time in building up 14-year-old Willa Holland, who plays bad-girl baby sister Kaitlin.

Meanwhile, the Teen Vogue crowd has even more emerging boldfaced names. After the celebutante Hilton sisters come the celebudude Hilton brothers: Barron, 16, and Conrad, 12. Fashion also has budding icons in the form of Bee Schaeffer (Anna Wintour's daughter), Julia Restoin (Carine Roitfeld's daughter), and Allegra Beck (Donatella Versace's daughter). Showbiz, of course, is starstruck over Josh Hutcherson, 13, ("Little Manhattan," "Zathura," "RV"); Camilla Belle, 19 ("When A Stranger Calls," "A Little Princess"); and the music world's Chris Brown, 16, who is being called the baby Usher.

Fickle business

Tasked with turning good-looking nobodies into household superstars, this teen culture business is a relentlessly fickle one. The exact turning point when one's built-in teen appeal fades is when he or she chooses to shed the bubblegum veneer.

Don't look now, but it's happening to this second's young celebrities. Lindsay Lohan is totally mainstream, splashed across newsstands as a Vanity Fair cover star. Mary-Kate Olsen has similarly crossed over, turning up on W. I mean, even the ditzy cast of "Laguna Beach" has to graduate "high school" and move on to "college," right? If you care to notice, the what's-next mentality is favoring increasingly younger but savvier talents, leaving the recent past's teen idols prematurely old and obsolete.

Since the journey from up-and-coming to has-been has been fast-tracked even more, how will the situation be for tomorrow's adolescent heirs? Will the public soon clamor for whipsmart 7-year-olds and other such ancient souls in nymphet bodies? Or will we reach that point when 7 will be over the hill? See, change is always good. But, what's scary is that today, it's happening way, way too fast.

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- 1 year supply of Enervon tablets
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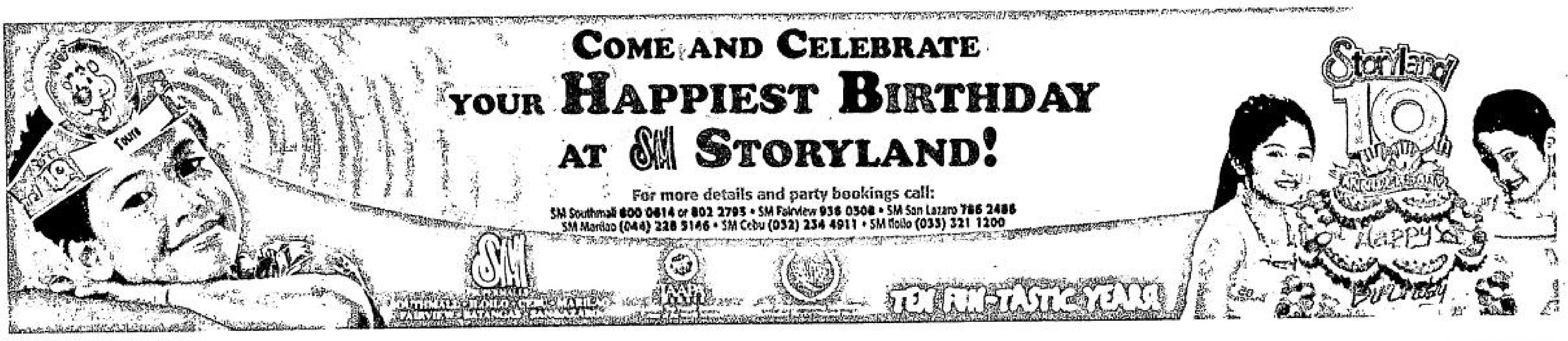
- 2 T-shirts

Criteria for judging

Exhibits wackiness	- 40%
Dad & child rapport	- 20%
Creativity	- 20%
Overall Appeal	- 20%
	100%

Promo period: June 12-25, 2006
Last day for submission of entries is on the closing hours of June 25, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2043 Series of 2006
See posters for details.



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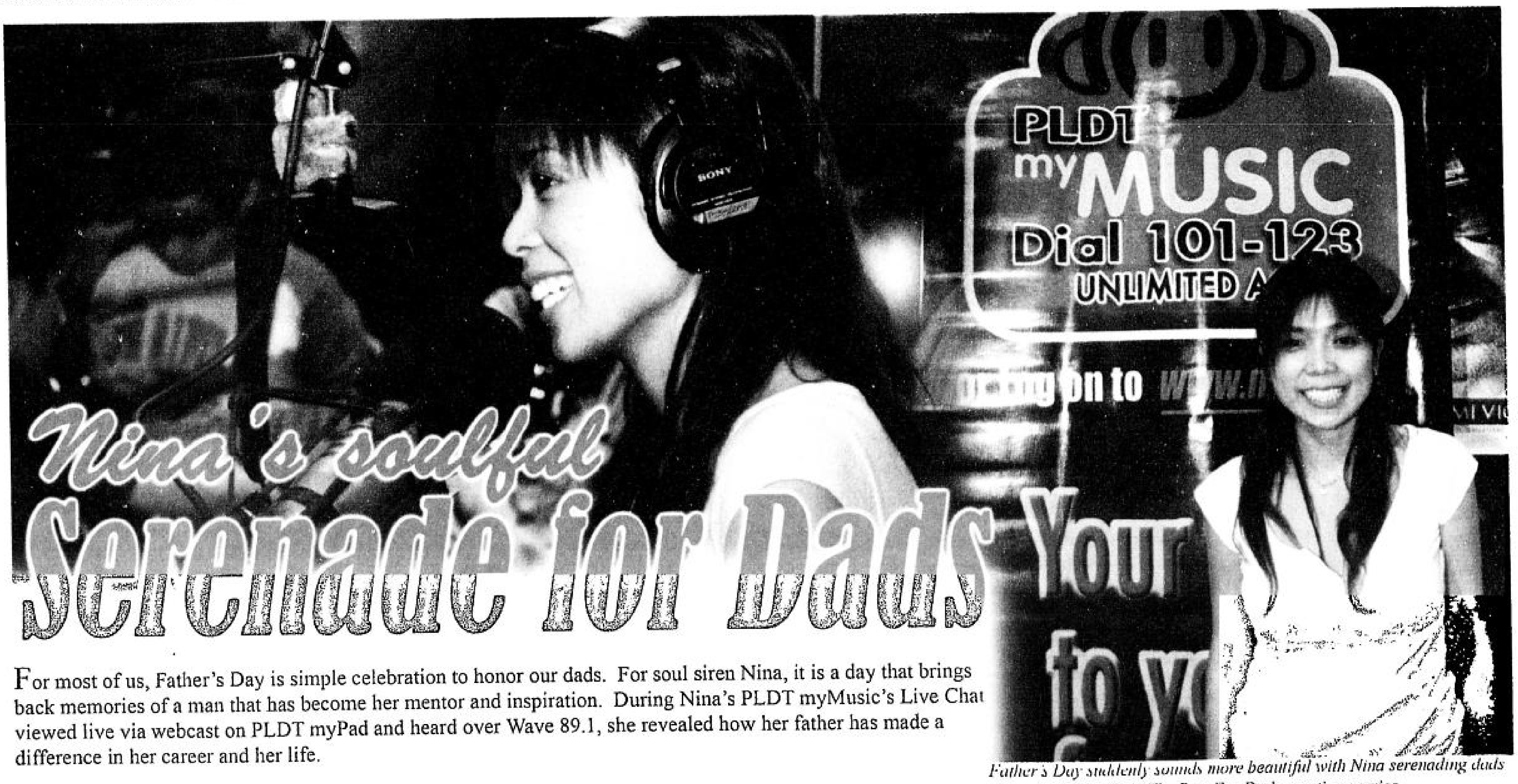


Nina's soulful Serenade for Dads

Father's Day suddenly sounds more beautiful with Nina serenading dads through PLDT's Only The Best For Dads greeting service.

For most of us, Father's Day is simple celebration to honor our dads. For soul siren Nina, it is a day that brings back memories of a man that has become her mentor and inspiration. During Nina's PLDT myMusic's Live Chat viewed live via webcast on PLDT myPad and heard over Wave 89.1, she revealed how her father has made a difference in her career and her life.

"I had a very close relationship with my dad. Medyo daddy's girl ako," Nina confessed.

Nina says that it was her dad that introduced her to music. Her dad Filbert, who passed away six years ago, was an accountant by trade but like her, a singer at heart. He was a member of the Bayanihan Boys Choir, singing for foreign dignitaries around the world.

Together they would listen to Frank Sinatra, Matt Monroe, Julio Inglesias and Barry Manilow. Nina distinctly remembers her father's favorite song, Through the Years by Kenny Rogers. She also admits that it was her father who taught her how to sing.

"He was really my teacher. Everything about singing I learned from him. Things like breathing, diction, kung saan huhugutin yung boses," she said.

As early as five years old, Nina's father noticed his young daughter's singing potential. Under her father's guidance, Nina underwent intensive vocal training. Their father and daughter ritual included vocal exercises early in the morning. She would also belt out songs with her body submerged in a drum of water.

Eventually, all their hard work paid off as Nina's talent blossomed. Today, she is heralded as the country's one and only soul siren and the newest queen of pop. She has gold and platinum selling albums under her belt. She is also one of the select artists featured in PLDT myMusic.

"I'm so honored every time PLDT gives me this opportunity because I get to reach out to families—dads, moms, down to the kids. I'm so excited to be part of this," she revealed.

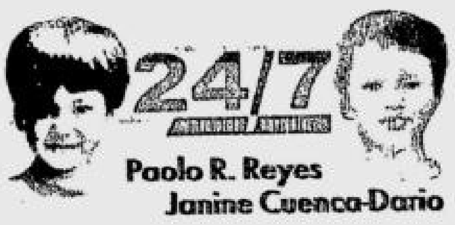
Nina's Gift to Dads

Nina believes that the best gift a daughter can give to her dad doesn't have to be big, expensive or complicated. It can be as simple and inexpensive as "a letter or card, a song or a call especially if you're father is so far away is a good Father's Day gift". And of course there is also PLDT's greeting service, Only the Best for Dads. As the PLDT myMusic service artist for June, Nina says she proud to be a part of PLDT's special tribute to dads. It is her way of celebrating her dad's memory by bringing happiness to fathers everywhere.

Let Nina serenade your dad with PLDT's Only the Best for Dads greeting service. Simply dial 101-143, choose from Nina's mesmerizing renditions of "Greatest Gift of All," "Sunlight" and more, and send to your dad's PLDT landline or SMART cellphone at only P10 per send together with your personal dedication. For only P30 charged to your phone bill, you can have unlimited access to this service until June 30. First three sends to a PLDT landline is absolutely free.

Nina's live chat with PLDT myMusic subscribers was simultaneously webcasted over PLDT myPad

You may also get to talk to Nina via live chat by subscribing to PLDT myMusic. Special invites to her Very Manilow concert at the Music Museum held during Fridays and Saturdays for the whole month of June await myMusic subscribers and special dads. Just dial 101-123 or log on to www.mypad.net to get unlimited access to your kind of music. Because if you love music, you'll definitely love PLDT myMusic.



Paternal Secrets

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

ON THIS FATHER'S DAY WEEKend, you might find yourself inundated with a barrage of mouth-watering offers from hotels and restaurants, all tempting you to part with your well-earned moolah.

24/7 hopes to alleviate your anxieties with a listing of some great places to celebrate, Father's Day or otherwise:

Ricco-Renzo Café [G/F LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Makati, phone: 898-2542] has free Salsa lessons every Saturday night at 8 p.m. Do not miss the Pepper-encrusted Tuna Sashimi and the Raffa Apple Pie with grated Gouda cheese, voted one of the best desserts in town. Since the food would make you want to throw your diet out the window, burn those unwanted calories after dinner and hit the dance floor!

Jill's and Jack's [Level 1, Fort Strip, Taguig, phone: 818-4557]. Discover why this unpretentious resto-duo is packed almost all nights of the week. With great food combined with nightly entertainment, it is no wonder. My personal favorite dish is the Prawns Thermidore with garlic pasta. Other best-sellers include the Salpicado and Chicken a la Kiev. Their Cheesecake is also a certified hit. Friday, their busiest night of the week, is called DecaDance featuring DJ Boyet Almazan and the disco hits from the 70's to the 90's. The place is packed with the country's who's who and is a wicked place for dancing and people-watching. Better reserve a table a few days in advance. Or come before dinner time.

Greenbelt 2 and 3 is always the default choice offering quiet fine dining and upbeat entertainment. Café Havana [G/F, Greenbelt 3] is the only bar that's busy even on Sunday nights. Segafredo [G/F, Greenbelt 3, phone 757-4058] a great choice of because of its thin-crust pizza. Do not miss the Quattro Formaggio and their antipasto. Have a enjoyable week discovering some of the city's nocturnal and culinary secrets!

Other Super! 24/7 events:

June 17, Saturday

Art in the Park, 8am to 4pm ath the Velasquez Park in Salcedo Village. A special art fair wherein all quality artwork, paintings, photographs and prints will be priced below 20 thousand. Art in the Park is part of the second anniversary celebration of the Salcedo Community. DJ Martin Pulgar at Embassy Club; Campusition Night at Mag:net Café; Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundsgood at Embassy Cuisine;

June 18, Sunday

Clowns Without Borders photo exhibit at Greenbelt 3; Palette's Eye art exhibit at UP Jorge B. Vargas Museum; Champagne Lunch at Paseo Uno (Mandarin Oriental); Champagne Brunch at Spiral (Hotel Phil. Plaza)

June 19, Monday

Parokya ni Edgar at 70s Bistro; Gary Granada at Conspiracy; Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

June 20, Tuesday

Jammin' Reggae w/ Brownman Revival at Conspiracy; Up Dharma Down, Drip, Outerhope, & Bagetsafonik at Saguijo; Hemp Republic at 70s Bistro; Sitti at Tavern on the Square; Cuisine Royale w/ DJ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine

June 21, Wednesday

DJ Boyet Almazan w/ Freestyle at Strumm's; DJ Steve Mills at Absinth; Spy, Rinka, DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; DJ Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; DJ Crash at Temple; DJ Brit at Government

June 22, Thursday

James Taylor Jam w/ Paolo Santos & Pido at 70s Bistro; Broadway Night at Conspiracy; Reggae Night at 6Underground; SPIT at Mag:net Café; Musings Of A Cigarette Smoking Man, Boldstar, Helen, and Itchyworms at Saguijo; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple

June 23, Friday

Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; Razorback at Saguijo; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Mati

MyHOUSE at M Café; DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Brit at Government

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more info, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Get your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restos around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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ADVT.